

9-5-1996

## Casco Bay Weekly : 5 September 1996

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# Casco Bay Weekly

Illustrated man

3

What is Common Ground?

4

The accidental folkie

14

Wine

23

Movies

28

What would you  
like Gender  
Benders,  
Portland's only  
same-sex escort  
service, to supply  
for you? Dancers,  
strippers?  
Housecleaning  
in the nude?  
See page 8.



This is Wendy. How  
can she help you?

## Escort for Hire

SEP 5, 1996



# IN WITH THE NEW NEW GEAR ARRIVING DAILY

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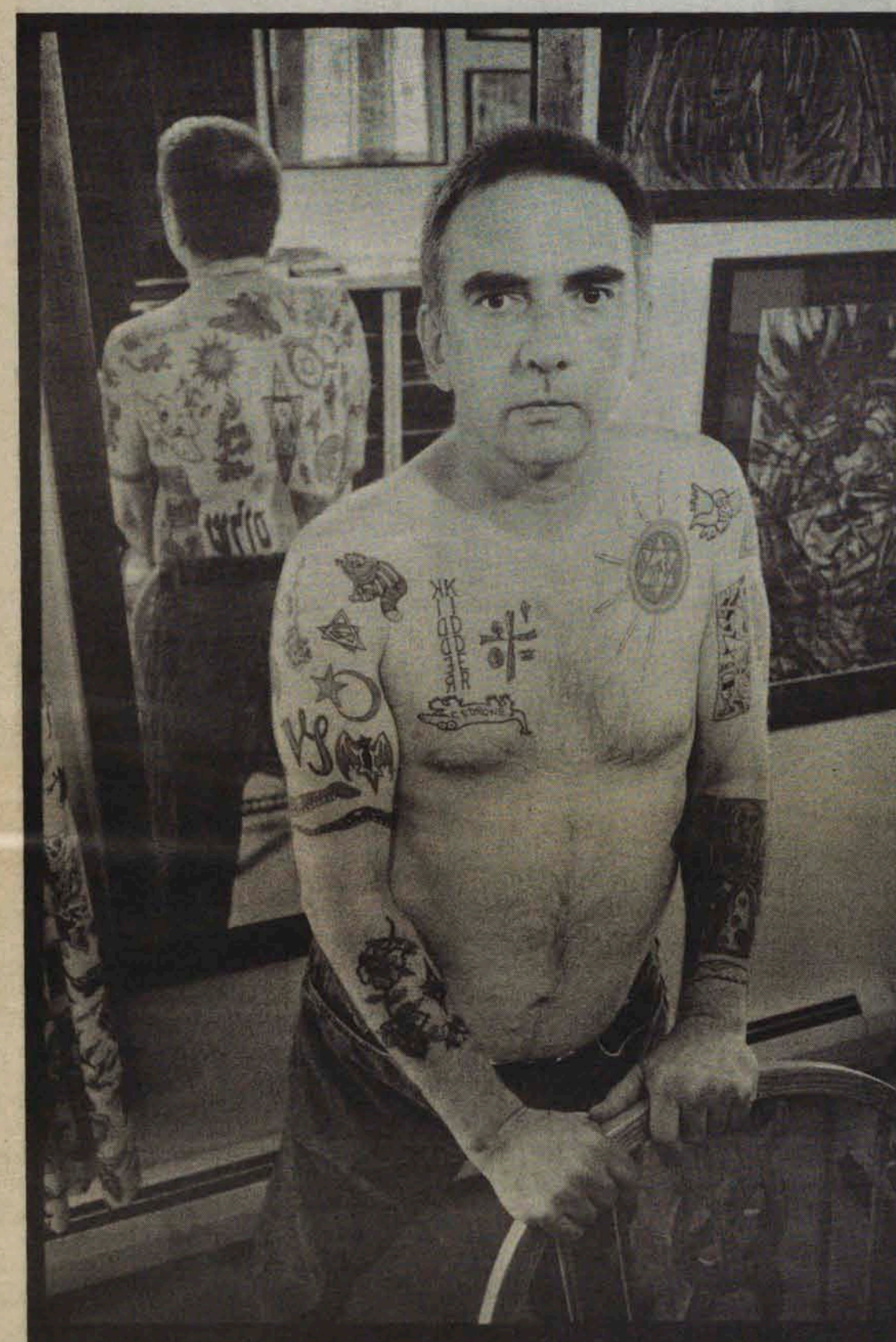
### BOOTS

Rossignol, Nordica, Lange, Salomon, Alpha

### BINDINGS

Marker, Salomon, Rossignol

## Talk A CONVERSATION WITH WOODY DANA



**"Tattoos were, all my life, something that other people did. Then they became something that I did."**

At age 49, Woody Dana got his first tattoo, a circle with a star in the center—smack on the chest, like a sheriff's badge. He remembers it as an "out-and-out impulsive moment."

Now at 53, he is nearly covered in tattoo art, all done by local tattooist Ernie Villeneuve or the tattoo artists who work for him. Dana says that tattooing has given him a different take on life. As the bumper sticker says, tattooed people are more colorful. His tattoos include a Cheshire cat, constellation, dragons, a red fox and snakes. He also has alligators and fish tattoos designed by Portland artist David Cedrone.

Dana, a longtime Portlander, is the author of "City Skunks," a collection of poetry. He is having a show of his own artwork at Coffee By Design on Congress Street in January.

**How do people respond to your tattoos?**

You get all sorts of comments. When I was adding tattoos like crazy, a neighbor said, "You must be crazy." It either draws people or repels them. Tattooing is an extremely in your face thing to do.

Some people say that tattooing desecrates the body, but I feel that it decorates the body. It's a real misnomer that tattooed people are just stupid.

**Tell me if it hurts.**

Bony areas are painful. Flabby areas are painful. You do develop a tolerance, and I do say 'OUCH' loudly. I don't suffer completely in silence. When I got the Cheshire cat, it didn't hurt at all. So I do think that your mood has something to do with your tolerance.

**So do you regret any one of these tattoos?**

I only regret that I'm running out of space.

**Are you going to regret these tattoos when you are a very old man?**

When I'm in a nursing home, I am surely going to stand out. Some nurse is going to say, "You are one cool old dad."

Interview by Deb Dalfonso;  
photo by Colin Malakie

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**S**oleywatch: Old Port mega-landlord **Joe Soley** wants the Maine Supreme Court to overturn the conviction of his Seamen's Club restaurant for possessing short lobsters. Marine Patrol agents busted the Seamen's Club last Halloween when 16 undersized crustaceans

#### news-orama



were discovered in the kitchen. On Aug. 21, Soley's lawyer, Elizabeth Morley, entered a conditional plea of guilty to the charges and a judge fined Soley \$455.50. But in a motion filed the same day,

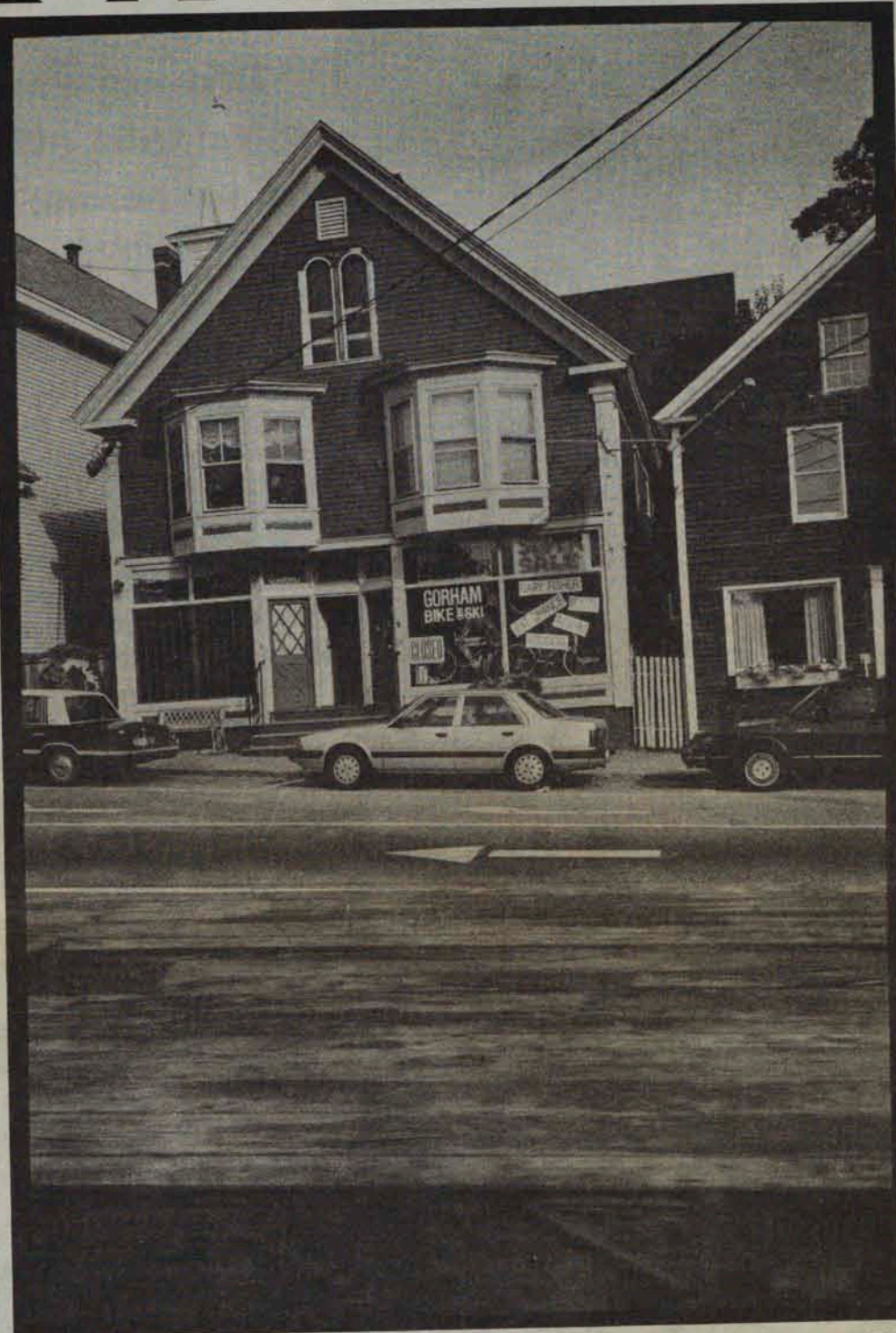
Morley asked the high court to suppress evidence and dismiss the charges. "We think the law is unfair," said Morley, "and it's being unfairly enforced."

■ **Bostwatch:** If you haven't noticed independent U.S. Senate candidate and former Ross Perot organizer **Steve Bost**, you're in the majority. Nearly three-quarters of those interviewed in a poll this summer never heard of Bost, and less than 1 percent planned to vote for him. Bost could have shrugged that off if he'd managed to raise sufficient money to become better known and win some support. But he hadn't, he didn't and he won't. On Sept. 3, Bost packed it in, asking the Secretary of State to remove his name from the ballot. His withdrawal leaves voters with four choices: Republican Susan Collins, Democrat Joe Brennan, Green John Rensenbrink and U.S. Taxpayers Party member Bill Clarke.

■ **Condomwatch:** Actually **there weren't many condoms** to watch at the Portland schools' public health clinics during their first six months of operation. Not only didn't many students ask for birth control, but hardly any students asked for anything. Only 81 students visited the clinics at Portland and Deering high schools. Most patients stopped in for immunizations or other routine procedures. One big reason for the low turnout may be that before a student can use the facilities, he or she must be low-income, have parental permission, be qualified for the next U.S. Olympic team and be able to recite Shakespeare in Latin. The restrictions (well, the first two anyway) were put in place because of complaints by conservative parents that students might use the centers for something other than the sniffles. No problem.

■ **Lotterywatch:** Revenues from the **state lottery are down**, and officials are trying to figure out whether bringing in a big-money, multi-state game like Powerball can reverse the trend. Even if they decide that's the way to go, they may meet opposition from anti-gambling Gov. Angus King. For the fiscal year ending June 30, the lottery pulled in \$39 million, but that's \$7 million less than budgeted. Lottery revenues were off a whopping 15 percent in the first month of the new fiscal year. Meanwhile, New Hampshire, where Powerball is already in place, reports lottery sales jumped 28 percent over last year. **CBW**

## CITY



The Community, a religious group, will run Common Ground Restaurant, at left. PHOTO/COLIN MALAKIE

## Uncommon ground

### Controversial sect opens Gorham café

■ **LAURA CONAWAY**

Members of a controversial religious group called "The Community" are starting a café in downtown Gorham. The international messianic sect established a commune — which now includes about 20 members — in the Portland suburb two years ago, and has been planning its Common Ground Restaurant since January. The group has postponed the opening date several times, but representatives say they hope to begin serving customers by the end of September, offering soups, salads and sandwiches.

While Community members appear to be peacefully setting up shop in Gorham, they've drawn the wrath of a Portland resident who thinks they're up to more than

their menu suggests.

John Brown, a Parkside resident, has been trying to get his 8-year-old grandson out of a Community settlement in Dorchester, Mass. The boy lives there with his mother, Brown's former daughter-in-law, who won parental custody when she and Brown's son divorced in 1993. Last year, she moved into the Dorchester Community, taking Brown's grandson with her. Now Brown is gearing up for his son's battle for custody of the boy — an effort he likens to rescuing his grandchild from slavery.

For several weeks, Brown has plastered telephone poles in Gorham with posters urging Community defectors and relatives of members to come forward with infor-

mation about the group. The Community models itself on first-century Christian fellowships — the ultimate fundamentalism. Believers homeschool their children, freely admit they punish kids by hitting them on the palm with a thin wooden rod, and discourage make-believe play. Those practices, combined with the group's appearance — the men wear ponytails and beards, and many dress like followers of the Grateful Dead — have spurred charges of child abuse that have dogged the Community throughout its 25 years of existence. In 1984, law enforcement officials raided a settlement in Island Pond, Vt., and briefly took custody of 110 adults and 120 children. A judge subsequently dismissed all the cases, citing lack of specific evidence.

Brown believes at least some of those charges were true. By gathering new evidence, he hopes to build a strong case for his son's court fight. "You'd better have a dead body or a bowl of blood or a broken bone, not just 'I don't think it's a nice place to be,'" said Brown, whose close-trimmed white hair and middle-class clothing contrast with the 1960s hippie apparel favored by sect members. "When they get a child involved in this, his life is finished. The child has no choice in this. He's all done. You can go out and worship telephone poles for all I care. Just don't enslave children in it."

Community members in Gorham are quick to point out Brown's custody battle is with a member in Dorchester — not them. They say the Gorham commune is an easy target for Brown because it's so close to his home. "It's a lot easier just coming out to Gorham than driving two and a half hours to Dorchester," said John Post, a Community member for 23 years who is raising his seven kids in the group's farmhouse. "When the first posters went up, we went down and talked to the [police] lieutenant and he was real helpful. I've seen him about every week since."

While Community members have been dropping in at the Gorham police station regularly, John Brown has also made frequent visits there. One day, said Sgt. Robert Mailman, Brown came in with a thick file of accusations against the Community. The next thing police officers knew, Brown was out stapling up posters.

"He's on his own little personal crusade," Mailman said. "We don't have any problems with them. Just because they're there doesn't mean you can run them out of town." Since settling in Gorham, he said, group members have lived quietly. "We don't get any calls. It's not like they're in there beating each other up. If they are, they're keeping it awful quiet. We can have one family move in, and we'll be there all day. Here you have 20

people living together, and they're not even related. We don't have any problems."

Brown does have a problem with the Community, and it's threefold. First and foremost, he wants to get his grandson away from its Dorchester commune. Second, he believes the sect is a dangerous, enslaving cult. Third, he's struggling to get anyone in the media to publish his story.

"The media don't want to touch this because they're afraid of getting sued,"

**The Community — which tries to steer its children away from imaginative play — has designed a restaurant straight out of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit."**

said Brown. Recently he's been joined in his fight by a local Community defector.

Tom Canwell of Standish had flirted with the idea of joining the Gorham group since meeting its founders two years ago. Finally, in April 1996, Canwell moved in. After learning from Brown about the old accusations of child abuse, he began to question living with the group. When he told members he'd talked to Brown, Canwell said, they packed his bags and sent him away.

"If you say anything that goes against the Community, that the Community doesn't agree with, you're out," he said. "I gave up my job, my apartment." While he was uncomfortable with the group's insistence that women submit to the rule of men, Canwell stops short of saying members abused their kids. He recounts versions of child abuse stories that have changed as they've been passed around. A 3-year-old boy who was whipped 85 times for playing car with a block of wood becomes a 3-year-old boy who was locked in a closet for the same offense. "Those may have been exaggerated," said Canwell, who nonetheless tells unsettling stories of his own.

"We'd been getting compost from Shaw's," he said. "We were eating it, actually. I didn't think that was right. We were sorting through it and picking out what we could eat."

Step inside the group's Common Ground Café, and the image of believers picking through rotting vegetables gives way to a perhaps more startling dining environment, given its context. The Community — which tries to steer its children away from imaginative play — has designed a restaurant straight out of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit." Rustic tables cluster under dim lights, and waterfalls gurgles from some of the booths.

"We just want to create a nice atmosphere," said member Post, who spends his days putting finishing touches on the eatery. "We want people to come out and have nice food at a good price, and hopefully, they'll get to know us."

#### Good Day Market

### Co-op needs cooperation

#### Health food store seeks relief from debt

The Good Day Market, a member-owned cooperative health food store, is asking its major creditors for a short-term break on payments. General manager Shermin Campbell said the market has had trouble keeping up with increased overhead in its new location on Middle Street. Last November the co-op moved across town from its longtime headquarters on Brackett Street after months of lagging sales.

"The year before we moved and the year after were tenuous," Campbell said. "[Moving] cost us a fortune." She said the market borrowed over \$100,000 to open its new store.

Though relocating may have been expensive, Campbell said, the market had to find a building with enough parking to attract customers from outside the West End. "We were becoming a convenience store where people would pick up tofu and milk and yogurt and go home," she said. Now that customers can park at the market, they're picking up an average of 10-12 items per trip, twice the number bought by each shopper at the old Brackett Street location.

Richard Rudolph, an organic farmer from Standish who supplies the market with greens, potatoes and cut flowers, expressed disappointment over the Good Day struggle. "That's too bad. They're good customers of ours and they've been paying us on a timely basis," he said. "Some people have said that they probably would have been better off staying where they were."

Campbell said getting the Middle Street location was key to the market's long-term survival. "I think sales have been fairly down, but they're still better than they were," said Campbell. "We're making money, but the overhead has changed. The rent has doubled." Board members refused to say how much the market is spending on rent or taking in at the register, but Campbell did say the store would need \$1.5 million in annual gross sales to stay in the black. At the old location on the West End, she said, typical annual sales ranged from \$900,000 to \$1 million.

Campbell said she will meet with the market's major creditors — Coastal Enterprises Inc., Cooperative Fund of New England and Downtown Portland Corporation — to ask for a few months' relief from paying back loans. "We would just like two, three, four months of some respite," she said. "We can do it. We can pay the bills, but then we're hurting some place else."

LAURA CONAWAY

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## Media sChmedia

### Green, but not clean

The Green Party talks a lot about restoring trust and ethical standards in government. But when it comes to conflicts of interest, the press secretary for the Green's candidate for U.S. Senate has one of the more obvious ones. Matt DeRienzo is working both as a reporter covering environmental issues for the weekly *American Journal* in Westbrook and as the chief mouthpiece for the John Rensenbrink campaign.

In recent years, journalists have crossed the line and become politicians with increasing frequency. Angus King got his start in political life by hosting a public television show. King's spokesman Dennis Bailey is a former reporter. Failed Republican U.S. Senate candidate Bob Monks employed former TV journalist Bill Johnson to handle the media, and unsuccessful Democratic Senate hopeful Sean Faircloth has approached several media outlets about becoming a columnist. But none of these folks tried to serve simultaneously as journalists and politicians.

Nevertheless, this crossing of lines demeans objective reporting because it makes the public wonder if everybody in the media is just marking time until the next cushy political job opens up. Mr. and Ms. Average Media Consumer can be excused for assuming the people preparing the news are censoring what the public reads, hears and sees to avoid damaging future job prospects. "Better not spill the beans about Congressman Scumbucket," thinks the editor. "He may have a vacancy on his staff soon."

None of this concerns DeRienzo. In addition to writing about such local environmental issues as a controversial incinerator ash recycling plant in Scarborough and tougher fire code restrictions for South Portland oil tank farms, DeRienzo churns out press releases for Rensenbrink.

"I don't believe that there will ever be a real problem with reporters who

are concerned about the environment or registered with the Green Party having a 'conflict' writing about environmental issues," DeRienzo responded by letter. "More exposure, more investigation, more attention to environmental problems is needed, and maybe it will take a few reporters who have their own strong convictions about these issues to bring that about."

"The true conflict lies with media organizations who, because of their corporate ties or because of a desire to stay on the good side of their state government sources, ignore, kill or

**This crossing of lines demeans objective reporting because it makes the public wonder if everybody in the media is just marking time until the next cushy political job comes up.**

don't adequately investigate stories about the environment."

Apparently there's no problem with a newspaper employing a reporter with such obvious prejudices, but failing to inform readers of this conflict.

By the way, Rensenbrink, the patron saint of openness and honesty in government, is far less concerned about promoting the same qualities in the news media. "We had a conversation with the editor and the publisher and they agreed Matt wouldn't cover any stories about politics," the candidate said. "The paper was comfortable with that, so I am, too. It's really an issue within the paper and if they are comfortable I am as well."

Who needs yellow journalism when you can excuse biased coverage by calling it green?

### Family conflict

Another newspaper that doesn't always tell readers everything about the biases of its writers is *CBW's* sister publication, *Maine Times*.

Earlier this year, editor Doug Rooks saw no problem with failing to reveal columnist Mark Sullivan was working for a congressional candidate. Now Rooks has neglected to inform the public about ties between staff writer (and sometimes *CBW* contributor) Kenneth Z. Chutchian and one side in a controversy he reported on.

In the August 22 issue, Chutchian wrote that the *Lewiston Sun-Journal* has gone to court because the Oxford County sheriff refused to provide police logs. But Chutchian didn't mention that his wife is an editor at the *Lewiston* paper and a player in this little melodrama. While the story was balanced and fair, *Maine Times'* failure to provide a disclaimer leaves the paper and Chutchian open to charges he is carrying water for his wife.

"I probably should have used a disclaimer," admitted Chutchian. "But I still think it was a good story nonetheless."

Rooks did not return my telephone call asking for comment.

### Potato head

"As we all know," said WPXT-TV's Joe Palmieri during an Aug. 8 broadcast, "Maine potatoes are number one."

They are? According to the Maine Potato Board, the state's spuds rank fifth in the country in acres planted and sixth in yield. As for taste, that's a matter of opinion, which anchors aren't supposed to be giving.

"It was an ad lib," said Palmieri. "I meant that they taste great, not so much that they are the number one sellers."

Just for the record, Idaho produces the country's top-selling potatoes.

*Tom Hanrahan's column appears biweekly. To fill the void until his next one, write him care of CBW or via his e-mail address at kilmainham@aol.com.*

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## Chicken skin music

What'll you have with your eggs? How about a well-connected lawyer?

Jack DeCoster, owner of the infamous egg farm and migrant worker hell-hole, has hired Portland lawyer Harold Pachios. Some folks are wondering what DeCoster expects Pachios to do.

In July, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) slapped DeCoster with a \$3.6 million fine for maintaining sweat-shop-style conditions at his operation in Turner. Nothing odd about a guy in that kind of trouble getting himself a good lawyer, but DeCoster's choice of Pachios is a bit unusual.

DeCoster's politics tend toward the religious right side of the Republican Party. Pachios, on the other hand, is a former official in the administrations of Jack Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, a former Democratic state chairman and a former Democratic congressional candidate. Pachios is not a specialist in the intricacies of employment practices or federal labor law. "I'm a generalist," he said. "I do a little of everything."

So what's he doing representing DeCoster? "I'm advising him on how to correct the problems," said Pachios. Some small-minded busybodies (not me, some other small-minded busybodies) have suggested DeCoster hire Pachios not for his insight into OSHA regulations, but for his connections in the upper reaches of the current Democratic administration. After all, the U.S. Department of Labor has a history of reducing fines when the offender makes an effort to change his ways.

Or when confronted by sufficient political firepower. "That's untrue," sputtered Pachios about the suggestion he's DeCoster's heavy artillery. "I do not have any political firepower. Even if I had it, it would be of no use here. This isn't a political issue. You're way out of touch."

Maybe, but DeCoster, who until now has used the Republican firm of Verrill & Dana for his legal needs, isn't the kind of guy who puts all his eggs in one basket.

### Dead can dance

*Investor's Business Daily* recently reported that Maine leads the nation in the percentage of eligible voters who are registered. That would be great news if it were at all true.

According to the newspaper, 105 percent of Mainers over 18 are legally allowed to cast ballots. The story doesn't bother to explain the statistical discrepancy, but it's probably the result of sloppy math, sloppy laws and a reliance on voter lists more inflated than the governor's budget projections.

The Secretary of State's office estimates 78 percent of Maine's eligible voters are registered. But the state's voter lists are thick with the names of people duplicated,

departed or deceased. Before Portland purged its list in 1993, over 90 percent of the population was registered to vote. The housecleaning removed more than 20 percent of the names, but officials agreed another 20 percent could have been cut without inconveniencing any actual residents.

The same pattern probably holds true in most of the state's larger cities. While some towns manage to keep accurate lists — North Yarmouth's 1994 update resulted in just 50 deletions out of nearly 2,000 names — that's not always true. When Cumberland officials checked their list two years ago, they discovered an unlikely 93 percent of the town's 5,800 residents were registered.

*Investor's Business Daily* blames the wacky numbers on the National Voter Registration Act, commonly known as motor-voter. Since 1994, the law has allowed registration by mail or when applying for a driver's license or other government permits. Maine has had such a program since 1990, resulting in more than 150,000 new registrations, most of them by mail.

Secretary of State Bill Diamond called that "good for democracy." But the newspaper indicated the law has been good for fraud as well. Not only can Carolyn Cosby rail against her mythical out-of-state gay activists showing up on election day to vote in Maine, not only can Republicans gripe about dear, departed and still-devotedly-Democratic Grampa casting his ballot in Chicago, but there are also those in California who are concerned about finding Mario Aburto Martinez's name on the voting list. Not only has Martinez never been a U.S. citizen, he's currently imprisoned in his native Mexico for assassinating a presidential candidate.

Absentee ballot, anyone?

### Dinosaur Jr.

Former Senator George Mitchell is about to become a father again. According to a reliable source, Mitchell, 63, and his second wife, Heather MacLachlan, 38, are expecting a little bundle of joy in February. Mitchell and MacLachlan tied the knot in December 1994. The child will be her first. He has a daughter from his previous marriage.

If we've got egg on our faces, let us know by writing this column, care of *CBW*, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Egg us on by faxing 775-1615, or give us the hard-boiled truth by e-mailing [ishmaelia@aol.com](mailto:ishmaelia@aol.com). No yolks or bad puns, please.

Editor's note: Maine Publishing, the company that owns *CBW*, is represented by Harold Pachios' law firm, Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios.

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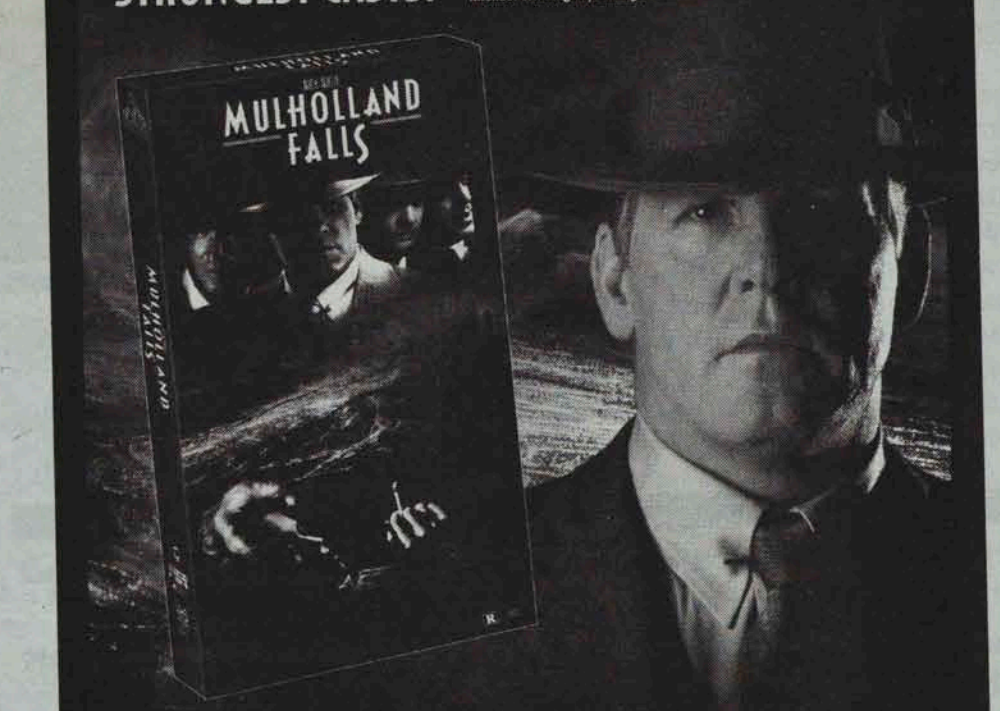


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# Escort

■ RICK MACPHERSON

A quick (and thoroughly arbitrary) perusal of the new Nynex yellow pages for the Greater Portland area reveals six cellular telephone services, eight urologists, nine Episcopal churches, 11 funeral directors and 95 pizzerias. But let your fingers do the walking to find a same-sex escort and exotic dancer service and you'll find only a single listing: Gender Benders. That is, you would find that listing had Nynex not screwed up and omitted the business' Yellow Pages display ad.

There's a lot of passion in the air the morning that the bad news reaches the Gender Benders office on Munjoy Hill. But it's not the sort of passion you'd expect. Sam\*, principal investor and co-owner of Gender Benders, is wrestling with a Nynex representative on the phone. "This is absolutely unacceptable," fumes Sam. "I'm ripshit about this. All I can say is that when our lawyers get finished, Nynex will be paying our rent for the next few months."

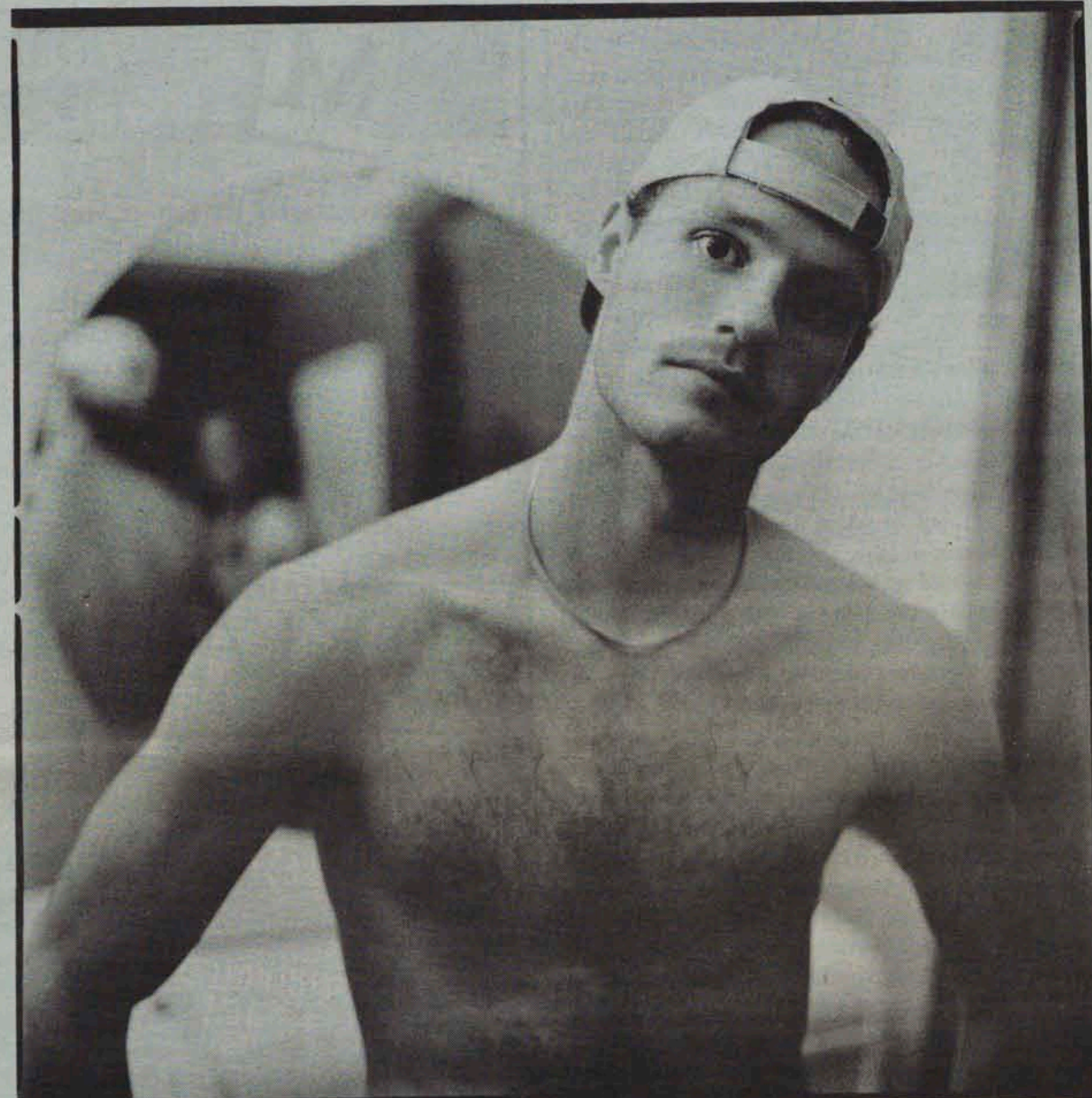
Anyone who's had any dealings with Sam would know he ain't just whistlin' Dixie. He's an imposing man physically, and his personality is no less monumental. He speaks emphatically and doesn't pull any punches. He says he's going to make Nynex bleed, and the phone company should get out the bandages. It's exactly that aggressive attitude that is fueling the collective enterprise known as Gender Benders.

**"None of what I do as a performer is illegal. And I'm not ashamed to provide a service that somehow satisfies a client in a safe way. I think it's a really positive thing."**

— Roger

Gender Benders began with a love story straight out of the film "Pretty Woman." Meet Jennifer, 26, and Kevin, 21, two friends who grew up together in Portland. Jennifer was working as an escort and dancer for a local escort service, and she and Kevin were hoping to save enough money to move to Florida to open their own escort

\*Names in this story have been changed.



A.J., who's worked for Gender Benders since June, thinks of himself as a dancer. PHOTOS/SHOSHANNAH WHITE

business. Enter Sam, 30, a businessman visiting Portland. Sam rented the presidential suite at the Holiday Inn and happened to call the escort service that Jennifer worked for at the time. "It's

2:30 in the morning and I call the service. Fifteen minutes later, in walks the princess," says Sam as he nods towards Jennifer. "There's an hourly rate for these things. I kept her for 36 hours."

The day after they parted, Sam called the service 14 times trying to find her. Finally he arranged to meet Jennifer again and spend another day with her.

At this point, he asked Jennifer what she wanted to do for a living. She said she wanted to run her own escort service. Sam said fine, bankrolled the enterprise, and, with Kevin joining the team, they created an enterprise called Love Birds. Love Birds offers male and female escorts, exotic dancers and maid and butler services to a primarily heterosexual clientele. But the Love Birds team quickly identified a niche in the local escort biz that needed to be filled, namely same-sex services.

Jennifer, who doesn't perform herself any longer, takes most of the credit for the concept. "There have always been about three major escort services located in Portland," she explains, "perhaps 10 that have come and gone. None of them were offering services catering directly to a gay or lesbian clientele. We came onto the scene with the funding to make us competitive with one of the top three."

Jennifer's objective was to provide a

safe, clean alternative for clientele seeking same-sex entertainment and escort services. But her goal came with its own unique set of speed bumps. Mention the words "escort service" and the first thing that most people think of is "prostitutes." But Gender Benders doesn't sell itself as a "full service" escort agency. (Full service is a sex-trade term for certain activities that are in violation of the state's prostitution laws and Portland's obscenity ordinance.)

"Before we started out, I had our attorney go through every single statute on the books for Portland and outline clearly what we could do and what we couldn't do," explained Sam. "We are not a full-service escort company, nor do we intend to be." Rather than focusing on what they couldn't do under the law, the Gender Benders team spent their time and energy focusing on what they could legally offer their clients. Sam beams when he explains what they discovered. "There's stuff that the other agencies never thought of doing that they probably think is illegal but we found out isn't," he says. "We are breaking new ground here."

What isn't permitted under state and local laws is succinctly spelled out in the contract that all Gender Benders escorts and exotic dancers must read and sign. Presently, Gender Benders employs approximately 22 individuals as "independent contractors." Not all of them are escorts; some are drivers and bodyguards. Everyone working for Gender Benders must agree that "while on any call referred by Gender Benders, he/she will not engage in any illegal conduct."

The list of caveats includes: any direct physical contact with the genitals or anus of the customer; any direct physical contact by a customer of the independent contractor's genitals or anus; bestiality; a customer's manipulation of an instrument or device on the independent contractor's genitals or anus; massaging a customer (unless the contractor is a Maine licensed massage therapist, and then the masseuse or masseur must be clothed).

So it's illegal to massage a customer, but it's perfectly legal (and grounds for some pretty hefty tipping) to tie up a client and spank him (or her) with a riding crop. Unlike Mark's Showplace dancers, who are forbidden from physical contact, Gender Benders escorts can be touched, provided it is not on the genitals or anus. During shows where two female escorts perform together, escorts may lick whipped cream from each other's thighs and nipples. "We had a party recently where the men were literally throwing 20s and 50s at the ladies during this kind of performance," boasts Sam. Specific requests from clients have included domination, S&M, doctor/nurse scenes, foot fetishes, prisoner scenes and a lot of role-playing.

Since escorts do the direct negotiations with clients for the exact service to be provided, it would seem easy enough for an escort to make a significant profit by offering full service. However, failure to comply with the terms of the contract is grounds for an escort or dancer to be terminated. Should an escort be arrested by undercover police for providing full service, Gender Benders absolves itself from all responsibility. Sam emphatically stresses that he would not post bail for any escort charged with prostitution. "When our escorts sign their name on that contract," he says, "they know the score."

Jennifer admits that recruiting her same-sex escorts and exotic dancers is one of the most difficult aspects of her job. "We can't just be looking for a pretty face or a hard body," she explains. "We need people who are also

**"Our clients are very normal people who lead very normal lives. They are your friends and loved ones."**

— Jennifer, Gender Benders founder

intelligent and can conduct themselves according to our policies and Portland's legal requirements. We also demand that our escorts be clean [drug-free]." In fact, Jennifer is eager to explain that she has already helped a female escort in her



Meet Pete. His boss says her escorts need to be intelligent and responsible.

employ to kick her drug habit.

Gender Benders currently manages a stable of escorts that's fairly evenly divided between male and female. Ages range from 18-27; the average age is 20. Escorts do not need to be queer to work for Gender Benders — they are gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual — they only need to be willing to provide same-sex entertainment. Approximately

75 percent of all calls to Gender Benders are from clients who want women performing together. Escort and exotic dancer fees are \$70 per hour for calls before 7 p.m. and \$80 for calls after 7 p.m. An average week sees the busiest

escorts working two or three shows weekdays and perhaps four or five shows on weekends. All escorts are free to negotiate with the client the types of services (within the law) that will be performed. Escorts provide their own costumes and necessary equipment and walk with 50 percent of their hourly rate plus tips. They are also responsible for paying their own taxes.

Tips range from \$5-\$100, but most average somewhere between \$20-\$60. What kind of performance nets a \$100 tip? Not surprisingly, most escorts don't get tipped for their charming conversation, but for their performance. Male performers are frequently asked by clients to masturbate (or "relieve themselves," to use the trade term) and Jennifer says that a minimum \$50 tip is asked for this service.

Obtaining the services of a Gender Benders escort begins with a phone call to the office. Jennifer or Kevin will ask

callers what sort of service the caller is interested in, where the escort will perform and for how long. Callers may choose from a varied selection of escorts. Male and female escorts run the gamut from slight to buff, submissive to aggressive, blond to brunette, tattooed and pierced to clean-cut. A dry-erase board hanging in the office lists all escorts by name and follows with a checklist of their physical attributes for quick reference.

Escorts are then driven to the home, office, or hotel room of the client. If more than one client will be present during the service, a bodyguard will also be sent along. The driver or bodyguard conducts all cash transactions. Once business has been taken care of, the escort can prepare to perform and negotiate for specific services. Most escorts are contracted for an hour; the longest performance thus far lasted four hours.

"The hardest part of the job is when you first walk into the room and have to quickly figure out what exactly the client wants from you," explains Roger, a 26-year-old escort and exotic dancer. "It's always awkward because the client is nervous, you're nervous, and you have to be able to open up communications quickly or they won't be happy with the service."

Roger is a soft-spoken, dark-complexioned man with sleepy brown eyes. He has the lean, toned body of a dancer and it wouldn't be a stretch to imagine him modeling for Calvin Klein. An admitted bisexual, Roger was approached while dancing at a club and asked if he would be interested in dancing for Gender Benders.

Roger has been contracting for Gender Benders since they opened for business, and claims to have had only one bad experience. "I was performing for a [male and female] couple," explains Roger, "and it was really awkward because I didn't know who I was supposed to be dancing for. It was just a misunderstanding and it turned out weird." Clearly that's where personality, communication skills and being capable of thinking on your feet come in handy. "The more clients I see, the easier it becomes because I realize it's always essentially the same thing."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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## Escort for Hire

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

continues Roger. "Most of my male clients are straight-acting, very closeted and unsure of how to ask for what they want. Most clients are so nervous that they could probably have an hour-long conversation, but I know that's not why they called me there."

So what makes same-sex escort and exotic dancing a compelling career choice for Roger? The money is good. He usually commands tips in the \$100 range. "I think that the reason I make such large tips," explains Roger, "is because I know how to keep the tension and excitement there during a performance without actually going all the way. People enjoy that and they are enjoying themselves enough to offer a large tip."

Roger considers himself a dancer rather than an escort. "What initially got me interested was that there was a way to make a living out of eating well, working out, dancing and keeping myself healthy," he says. But what about when a client asks him to do something that has nothing to do with dancing, and everything to do with sexual gratification? "None of what I do as a performer is illegal," emphasizes Roger. "And I'm not ashamed to provide a service that somehow satisfies a client in a safe way. I think it's a really positive thing." While work has been somewhat sporadic - Gender Benders has only been in business since May - Roger says he's getting by.

Roger wants it to be clear that he's operating under his own free will. He is certainly not chattel. "Of course people can come up with objections to anything I may say in support of my work," explains Roger. "I've pondered the exploitation side of this, but on a personal level I understand where the people who use our service are coming from. And I know that, in the big picture, other people's moral or ethical judgments shouldn't be involved in someone's private life. I know I would never have considered doing this if I felt there was something negative about it."

As safe and legal as Gender Benders services may be, the city of Portland isn't always friendly to legitimate businesses that deal in sexual material. As of last April, the city had numerous cases pending regarding violations to Portland's obscenity ordinance by such establishments as West Coast Video, Video Expo, Videoport, The Treasure Chest, Fine Arts Theater and Joe's Smoke Shop. (At least four of these cases had been settled by the time this story went to press.)

In addition, Maine recently passed a law making it illegal for massage parlors to offer "release massages" (manual masturbation to orgasm) to clients. What might all this public censure of private lives mean for Gender Benders?

Sam can only reiterate the underlying philosophy of the company: What Gender Benders offers is the most imaginative interpretation of what is 100 percent legal under Portland and Maine law. "I think the cops and the city have gotten the idea at this point that we are not full service," says Sam. "In fact, I don't know of any other agency in town that's backed up with the legal staff that we have here." (The Gender Benders legal team declined to be interviewed.)

The people at Gender Benders don't need the city fathers' blessing to know they're onto something. The calls they've been getting from clients (from both in and out of state) has convinced

If it sounds like Gender Benders has its eye on global domination, it probably wouldn't be hyperbole. They are simply capitalizing on a service that people want, and might actually place themselves in harm seeking out in another form. In a sexphobic, pleasurephobic and homophobic world, Gender Benders is providing an important alternative. Jennifer explains, "Our clients are very normal people who lead very normal lives. They are your friends and loved ones. But we allow them to live out their fantasies and fetishes in a clean, safe and sane way."

Does all this erotic business ever get to be overwhelming for the management team? Is it possible to get jaded by too much pleasure? "We got into this because we thought we were very open-minded," explains Jennifer. "Maybe a little more kinky than most people. But we get clients who call us and blow us away every day."

**It's illegal to massage a customer, but it's perfectly legal (and grounds for some pretty hefty tipping) to tie up a client and spank him (or her) with a riding crop.**



Escorts need to be able to communicate with clients and think on their feet.

them that they are offering a valuable, and increasingly popular, service. Already, Jennifer has plans for branching out into other areas: escorts as models, commercials, clothing lines, lingerie, sexual toys, as well as erotic poetry. With escorts already traveling as far south as Kittery and as far north as Bangor, Sam is considering opening other offices throughout the state. "We want to be northern New England's exclusive same-sex escort service."

Sam immediately interjects that Jennifer wants him to surprise her by dressing up as Batman one night. "Talk about humiliation," says Sam. "Maybe I'll just have her tied up publicly and spanked."

Jennifer smiles slyly and retorts, "Well... that is one of my fantasies."

Rick MacPherson will make charming conversation for money, but he won't take his clothes off.

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## Love for sale

Most people don't spend a whole lot of time thinking about escort services. These businesses operate at the fringe of public awareness, not calling attention to themselves, filling a need that the average citizen would rather not think about.

Some of the practices referred to in this week's cover story (see page 8) could be considered "shocking." Hiring someone to tie you up, or spank you, or dance around in a nurse's uniform — these things aren't "normal."



At least, that's what mainstream society would like to believe.

But a desire that might seem abnormal to one person can, to another person, be the most natural thing in the world. Entrepreneurs who run escort services like Gender Benders know there are enough people out there with "abnormal" desires to support a viable business.

What escort services offer is incredibly valuable: a clean, safe, professional delivery of erotic fantasy. Many of the clients who patronize such services are looking for a way to express their deepest desires without fear of disease, or crime, or public discovery. By calling an escort service, they can get what they want without worrying.

What of the escorts themselves? Aren't they being exploited? No more than any worker employed by a more "acceptable" business. For some

people (and obviously the job isn't for everyone), work as an escort means good money and nothing more. To them, it's no more degrading than waiting tables, cleaning toilets or selling life insurance. The workers, like the clients, benefit from an environment with strict rules and policies to protect both parties.

Considering how frightened the average American is by open, frank sexuality — especially homosexuality — the demand for escort services, same-sex or opposite-sex, isn't going anywhere anytime soon. We should continue to make sure that such businesses operate with integrity and that they live up to the same standards as any other.

It would be a mistake, however, to put any further restrictions on such businesses. Maine lawmakers overreacted last year when they outlawed so-called "hand release" during massage sessions (yes, that phrase means what you think it means). People will seek out sexual gratification — and some will pay for it — whether or not it is legal. If it is legal, it is safer and more dignified for everyone involved.

So while self-appointed morality police might be shocked and offended by the work that escorts do, they should really be thankful. Because the escorts are just living in the real world. And it's a perfectly healthy, normal place to be.

SARAH GOODYEAR

## LETTERS



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@cbw.maine.com.

### Hedgehog prickly about AI

When the Hedgehog opened in April of 1995 we billed ourselves as a brewpub because we had plans to build a brewery on site that June. When we made the decision to build a microbrewery instead of an on-site brewpub we realized that the word brewpub was no longer valid and subsequently renamed the establishment the Hedgehog Pub. Yes, we made a mistake, but that's OK, isn't it, to make a mistake, I mean? There was never any intention to deceive anyone. The decision not to brew on site was predicated on many factors, not the least of which was the ability to sell beer off the India Street location, and room to expand. We planned to specialize in lagers and lagers need considerable aging time. As an example, we have recently brewed a Doppelbock which requires 10 weeks to age. It does, indeed, take a lot of money, somewhere around a million dollars, to build a brewery in a 70-year-old building in Portland. Even if financial considerations entered into the equation, is that a crime? Should we apologize to Mr. Diamon if we don't have a million dollars? We thought folks might appreciate the fact that

we did find a way to brew beer.

Mr. Diamon asks, "What in hell is a tied house?" ("Time and tied," 8.29.96) as if it were some obscure name, yet he then proceeds to inform the reader as to what a tied house actually is and does so from very available and un-obscure sources of information. He further suggests that we brag about being a tied house in an effort to obscure our decision to brew in Skowhegan. This statement is, in fact, not true. The story behind the tied house and our efforts to build a brewery on India Street are explained on the menu and a written display in the pub. Mr. Diamon appears to have an agenda that has not been explained to us at the Hedgehog because, in actual fact, Mr. Diamon has never spoken to an owner of the Hedgehog since shortly after it opened! Yet, Mr. Diamon writes about the Hedgehog with considerable self-professed knowledge, not, I suppose, unlike his self-professed knowledge of beer. I may be new to the pub business, but I have been in it long enough to know that if you taste enough beers you become an expert on anything.

Why do you use innuendo and rumor for your facts, Mr. Diamon, when we are all quite willing to talk with you and have made several efforts to speak with you at the Casco Bay Weekly?

Mr. Diamon has never returned our calls. But, apparently, he has come to the Hedgehog.

I'm not sure why Mr. Diamon believes building a brewery in an old chicken barn was working against the odds. Perhaps he feels that the poultrygeists needed eviction prior to construction? At any rate, I am quite proud to say that my father-in-law, Skip Lawton, used to be a chicken farmer, and is very excited that an empty

old barn has new life. I happily invite anyone to come tour the brewery. We can brush the "feathers and poop" away long enough to give you a tasting.

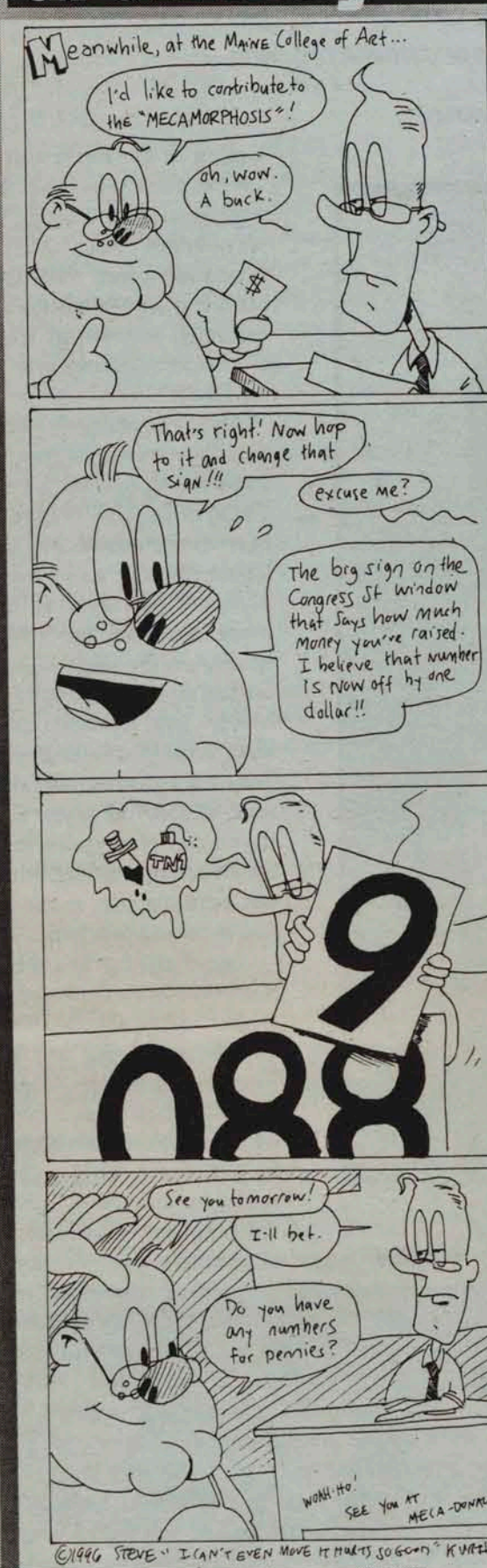
For the record — and based on fact and not rumor — Oak Pond Brewing Company is not brewing beers exclusively for the Hedgehog. The Oak Pond Brewing Company is marketing Nut Brown Ale and Somerset Lager throughout Maine. The purpose of the Hedgehog as a tied house is to offer the full range of beers the brewery plans to manufacture that will not be available throughout the state. We do, therefore, also offer a pale ale at the Hedgehog. We are coming out with an Oktoberfestbier in September and a Doppelbock in November.

As for our "slow progress toward becoming a decent bar" I can only state that establishing a following at the India Street location has not been easy. There is a lot of competition in Portland and we are well off the beaten path. We have always strived to be a place which offers a comfortable setting, quality food and now our own extended range of ales and lagers.

It is interesting to note that the "ridiculous uniforms" that Mr. Diamon mentions, which were, by the way, white shirts and black bow ties, "ridiculous uniforms" currently worn by the staff at DiMillo's and The Village Café, came at a time when the *Portland Press Herald* gave our food, atmosphere and service a 3-1/2 star rating. If the food is now "much improved" then we must be doing something right.

We are all in there working very hard to make these businesses work. We certainly do not need or appreciate Mr. Diamon's unusual and unnecessary efforts working against us. We have never intended to deceive anyone

## drunkBoy BY KURT



## CBW Q

### What percentage of Cumberland County's working families have a combined income below the poverty line?

Answering this politically aware reader's Q was more difficult than we thought — we could only get complete statistics for the Greater Portland region. Approximately 13 percent of all regional households live below the poverty line (\$15,600 for a family of four) and 35 percent of those families have at least one child under 18 years old, said a People's Regional Opportunity Program representative. To put that in perspective, a single parent with one child could work 85 hours weekly at a minimum wage job and still qualify for most forms of public assistance.

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAMM refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax 775-1615.

## LETTERS

about the Hedgehog and want only to offer a comfortable alternative to the Old Port hustle and bustle, a place with food and beer and atmosphere where people feel comfortable to meet and chat. I only hope that folks can see beyond Mr. Diamon's negative cloud and give us a try.

Patricia Lawton  
Co-owner, Hedgehog Pub  
President, Oak Pond Brewing Company

### So what?

A four-page cover story with two sidebars on the state of music clubs in Portland ("Facing the music," 8.22.96) and what do we learn?

A 20-somethin' guy with an inheritance who thought "running a club would be a good interim activity between grad school and whatever" learned the hard way you can't simply "put a good band in front of a crowd and ... have an instant gold mine."

An understanding of demographics means clubs catering to 18-24-year-olds who want cheap beer and "alternative" (to what, one might ask) rock are going after the same shrinking slice of pie.

An older, more affluent, crowd has different priorities than cheap beer and alternative rock. The city doesn't know what to do with, about and for "kids." Clubs actually rise or fall based on food and drink sales, not their music policy. Radio is part of the problem, not part of the solution.

Did anyone check the results of the market survey done as part of the report on the Art District? How are the venues offering alternatives to alternative rock clubs faring? Why should anyone really care about another moment in a cycle of club births and deaths?

As someone strongly interested in the cultural life of Portland, including its music clubs, I can only wish CBW would weigh in with more informative and thoughtful coverage than this.

Chris White  
South Portland

### God bless Bonepony

I'm writing this in response to a minor statement made in the article "Facing the Music." When referring to Kinsey's first week as owner of Granny's, the incident of the Screamin' Cheetah Wheelies ditching the club is mentioned.

The part that yanks my chain has nothing to do with SCW, it has to do with the unnamed opening band that was made out to be just as bad as the headliner. The unnamed band is Bonepony. Whether or not people were aware of the incident that didn't happen at Granny's that night, I'm sure that many more people will remember what the band did do.

The reason they did not play the club after SCW bailed was that they were under a contractual obligation to only play the gigs SCW played. On more than one occasion that evening, members of Bonepony voiced their regret at not being able to play Granny's and still wished to put on a show. So what did they do? They hauled their array of acoustic instruments and stompsboards down to Exchange Street like any other musician who wants to draw a crowd without a club to play in. In the span of 10 minutes the crowd had grown from a mere handful of passersby to a mass of 100 people spilling over the sidewalk and into the street, barely letting traffic squeak by. The confines of Exchange Street were soon realized (with a little prompting from the police), and the mini-concert was

moved up the street to the park, you know the one, the one that used to be a parking lot and was never used after they transformed it. Bonepony ended up playing two more sets in the warm summer air that night.

Here's the point. Did Bonepony leave it at that? A nice little gig in a park? NO! They came back on Monday, their day off from the SCW schedule, and made good to Granny's and packing the house. Never had I seen so many people in a bar on the night that is the slowest for any bar.

Jay Wills  
Scarborough

### Government is too darn big

I don't know if she realizes it or not, but Sarah Goodyear's piece ("When government works," 8.22.96) has done an excellent job proving the Republicans' point that big government is wasteful as well as paternalistic. The \$1.4 million HUD grant for lead abatement for 50 low-income housing units amounts to \$28,000 per family per unit. Even half of that would be a healthy down payment on a house, which would make a heck of a lot more sense than sinking 28 grand on a deteriorating apartment somewhere in Portland.

Did Ms. Goodyear ever stop to think that it was big government's policies that led to the housing shortage and the deplorable stock of rental housing in Portland? Come on out to Columbia, Mo., a city of 70,000 where you can rent a nice apartment for under \$300 a month, if you want proof of the results of Portland's big government policies of the past.

Betsy Murphy  
Columbia, Mo.

### Babe, you're bringing us down

I picked up a copy of CBW today (8.22.96) at the Hampton Inn. I want to tell you of the negative vibes I got right off the bat!! The front page was — NEGATIVE!! All about a new and bleaker future!! Then, on page 4, CBW speaks about enduring! There are five short stories about aspects of life — they all use the word endure. Seems as if life in and around Portland is bleak, indeed.

I intended to send CBW to my daughter's family in Burlington, Vt., because they may plan a visit to Portland. But this issue sure is a downer! I find CBW cynical and depressing! Thanks for listening.

Paula Smith  
Paula Smith  
Concord, N.H.

### Educate yourself

I would like to let your readers know about another educational opportunity that is available for adults in the Portland area that was not included in CBW (Education Issue, 8.15.96). Casco Bay Partnership for Workplace Education, which is affiliated with the University of Southern Maine-Gorham and seven businesses in the Greater Portland area, provides classes at the business sites. The classes we offer include English as a Second Language, Mathematics, Communication, Reading and Writing, and Science.

For more information, call 780-5014.

Carol Fleishman  
Site Coordinator for American Tool Co.  
Casco Bay Partnership for Workplace Education



**G**et plastered: The **State Theatre's latest crisis** — a decaying plaster ceiling that forced the cancellation of the sold-out Jimmy Cliff and Tori Amos concerts over Labor Day weekend — may have caused a decline in ticket sales for the Sept. 9 Barenaked Ladies concert and the Cowboy Junkies show on Sept. 17.

Kelly Graves, the theater's executive director, said ticket sales "were doing fine until Thursday," the day Sam Hoffses, Portland's chief building inspector, recommended the cancellation of last weekend's shows.

But Jim Ahearne, producer of the two shows, said they were "both doing exactly the way we would want them to do." Ahearne said the Ladies and the Junkies would definitely perform in Portland, although not necessarily at the State. "If the answer is we're gonna rock [at the State], we're gonna rock," he said. "If the answer is we can't rock, we're gonna move."

Several patrons of the theater said the State's troubles had affected their confidence in the theater. "They just have problem after problem," said Sarah Conley, who had purchased tickets to the Jimmy Cliff concert. But she added, "I'll probably come again if they get their act together." Adam Prescott said the cancellation of the Tori Amos show particularly inconvenienced him, since he lives in Rockland.

Others expressed faith in the State. "If they have a show that I was interested in, I'd probably still buy a ticket," said Brian Caouette, whose Tori Amos ticket was the first one he had bought at the theater. "I hope they get things straightened out."

■ Cat fight: From a police department witness statement, as included in the public record for Zootz' liquor license renewal hearing: On 5-24-96 at approximately 1:00 am ... a female known to me as H.R. approached me on the dance floor and deliberately bumped into me. I called her a whore and [she] said, "Are you talking to me?" I replied, "Do you think I'm talking to you?" [H.R.] replied, "Yes." I then said well then if that's the case you're insecure and you should get over your insecurities and stop being jealous of me. ... [H.R. consults with her friends. The witness tries to join in but is told by another friend, K., to mind her own business.] I said to K., "Who the fuck do you think you are? Get the fuck out of my face!" K. then pushed me. I pushed K. back, and she began to swing at me. I restrained her by grabbing her arms. ... K.'s right hand broke free. K. ... ripped off my halter top. ... I had her by the hair on her head with one hand, and was trying to hold up my top with the other hand. A bouncer came up behind me and got me in a full Nelson, breaking my hold on K. At this time A.M. came up and punched me in the nose. I began to bleed from the nose. The bouncer brought me outside and gave me an icepack. I went home and went to bed. CBW

## edge

KENNY G IS LURKING ... THE BEATS OF DIFFERENT DRUMMERS ...  
PEN NAMES ... METAL MELTDOWN ...  
MELVIN-MANIA ... TANTALIZING TANGO



Keeping the rock in folk rock: singer/songwriter Dan Merrill. PHOTO/SHOSHANNAH WHITE

## The accidental folkie

Dan Merrill brings his rock 'n' roll pedigree to the world of folk, and fits rights in

■ MARY BETH LAPIN

It's lunchtime, and Dan Merrill, the Portland singer/songwriter who won last year's New Folk Award at the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas, has just spent the morning in the studio, recording a jingle for a corporate client to the tune of "I'll Do Anything," from the musical "Oliver."

For Merrill, who's made music his career since high school, it's the meat-and-potatoes jobs like jingle singing that put food on the table and allow him to pursue the projects that feed his soul. The first category also includes performing popular favorites as part of Plus Johnny, a duo that performs at ski areas, beach festivals and the like. Writing original songs, as well as performing cuts from his first album, "Revolution," falls into the second. "There are a lot of things in music that you do to make money," Merrill says. "I'm fortunate that I have [my original music] as a creative outlet."

Merrill, 35, who shares a comfortable home off Washington Avenue with his wife, Belinda, two daughters, ages 6 and 11, and two cats, joined Cornerstone, a popular Portland rock band, in the early '80s. For nearly 10 years he lived the rock 'n' roll dream: he was lead singer for the band, was the Maine Music Awards' Vocalist of the Year in 1987, and opened for acts like Foghat, 38 Special and Marshall Tucker. "I cut my performing teeth on that band," Merrill says. "We did all the ridiculous rock stuff, big equipment, big lights, big sound, people to pour our water for us." But although the band's 1990 album, "Foundation," featured original songs co-written by Merrill, Cornerstone's successful formula was traditional rock, leaving Merrill no outlet for the introspective, acoustic songs he was writing privately.

In 1990, Merrill found a musical soul-mate in Victor Reznikov, a Russian musician and director of the Composers

Union in St. Petersburg. "We seemed to have similar writing styles and songs, so we swapped music," Merrill says. They began a collaboration, with Merrill taking extended sabbaticals from Cornerstone to perform in the Soviet Union.

In February 1992, Reznikov was killed in a St. Petersburg car accident. Shaken by the tragedy, Merrill regrouped. He left Cornerstone and went acoustic, performing his songs in colleges and coffee-houses on the singer/songwriter circuit throughout Maine. Still, he didn't consider himself a folk singer. "My background is really rock 'n' roll," he says. "But if you can play your songs on an acoustic guitar, without anything else, suddenly you become a folk artist."

The first he heard of Kerrville was from local singer Anni Clark, who asked him to record her own Kerrville entry tape. (Unlike Merrill, Clark wasn't invited.) Kerrville is a three-week folk shindig held every spring on a ranch in Texas; even though the event has helped launch the careers of new folk stars like Lyle Lovett, Nanci Griffith, David Wilcox and Ellis Paul, Merrill didn't think it sounded like his kind of thing. But Clark's stories of Kerrville's famous campfire jam sessions, where greats like Willie Nelson sometimes appeared, persuaded him to submit his own tape.

When word came that he'd been picked from a field of 800 entries as one of the festival's 35 performers, it sparked a mild identity crisis. To Merrill, folk was Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger — not his style. And he had gigs lined up. "There was no money. It was, 'Come to Texas and we'll let you play,'" he recalls. "I'm thinking, 'I'm going to Texas to play two songs, at a folk festival, no less. Do I want to do this?'"

Clark and other local musicians convinced Merrill it was a "résumé thing," so he flew to Texas, performed his two songs, and promptly flew home. The day after he got back to Portland, though, the phone rang; it was a festival representative, calling to inform him that he'd won the "New Folk" award, and to invite him back to Kerrville to perform at a festival showcase that would be attended by, among others, a slew of music industry types. He returned to Kerrville, played

the showcase, and suddenly found himself in one of folk music's most celebrated winners' circles. "Club owners who hadn't even heard me were saying, 'Anytime you're in town, we'll book you,'" Merrill says. "That's when I realized it was a really big thing."

Merrill has spent most of the past year working on "Revolution," which was released in July. It includes his Kerrville entries — "Katherine," an acoustic ballad about his youngest daughter, and an optimistic anthem, "I'll Get There." Merrill's upbeat songs about family, relationships and social change set him squarely in the new acoustic pop or folk rock genre of performers like John Gorka and Jonatha Brooke. His lyrics are optimistic, and his melodies catchy enough to make the play list on any "adult contemporary" station.

"[His lyrics] are personal to him, about his daughter and money," says Payton Hurlin, owner of Raoul's. "They're not at all catchy bubble-gum tunes. They're relevant, and you can relate to them. He's a very hard-working musician ... he doesn't just settle for playing every weekend in the Old Port. It's not a hobby for him — it's a life choice."

"Revolution" is the first release on

ZMG/Kenneport Records, a new label created by Merrill and his friends Mike Corbett, a recording engineer in Nashville, and Portland musician Barney Martin, who runs Zymurgy Music Group, an artist management company. Most of the recording was done in Nashville, where Corbett had access to equipment and studio musicians. They financed the project themselves, spending about \$20,000 on the recording.

Merrill, who just put together the Dan Merrill Band to perform songs from "Revolution," still keeps a personal comfort zone between his diverse musical pursuits. That includes politely declining requests for songs from his CD when he's performing in Plus Johnny. The distinction between music for love and music for money, after all, is important to Merrill, if not to his audiences. "A lot of musicians get to a point where they don't have another gig coming, and they have to get a day job to make ends meet," says Merrill. "I've never really considered another way."

"Revolution" is on sale at music stores throughout Portland. The Dan Merrill Band will perform cuts from "Revolution" in a free show Sept. 8 in Payson Park, from 1-3 p.m. For info call 774-4561. CBW

## preview

## Dublin on my mind

A Ian Parker's 1991 movie, "The Commitments," was a breezy, good-natured look at the rise and fall of a blue-eyed soul ensemble from a down-and-out Dublin neighborhood. The film, based on a 1987 novel by Roddy Doyle, did remarkably well at the box office, and reintroduced a generation of Americans to the music of artists like Wilson Pickett and Otis Redding. The sound-



Dave Finnegan (lower right) and the Commitments crew.

track, predictably, did a similar boffo business. The success of the film and soundtrack didn't go unnoticed by music industry types, and a sort of cottage industry surrounding "The Commitments" was born. One of the offshoots was "Stars From The Commitments," a traveling show featuring a few of the original cast members joined by a slew of capable backing musicians. The current lineup features the vocals of Dave Finnegan, who played the hopped-up bouncer/drummer in the film; he may not have the young-lion charisma of Andrew Strong, who played singer Deco Cuffe in the movie, but word has it that Finnegan more than holds his own onstage. Expect standards like "Midnight Hour," "Take Me To The River," "Chain of Fools" and, of course, "Mustang Sally." Singing along until you're good and hoarse is encouraged.

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

"The Committed: Tour" performs Sept. 5 at Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$15 advance, \$20 day of show. 773-2337.



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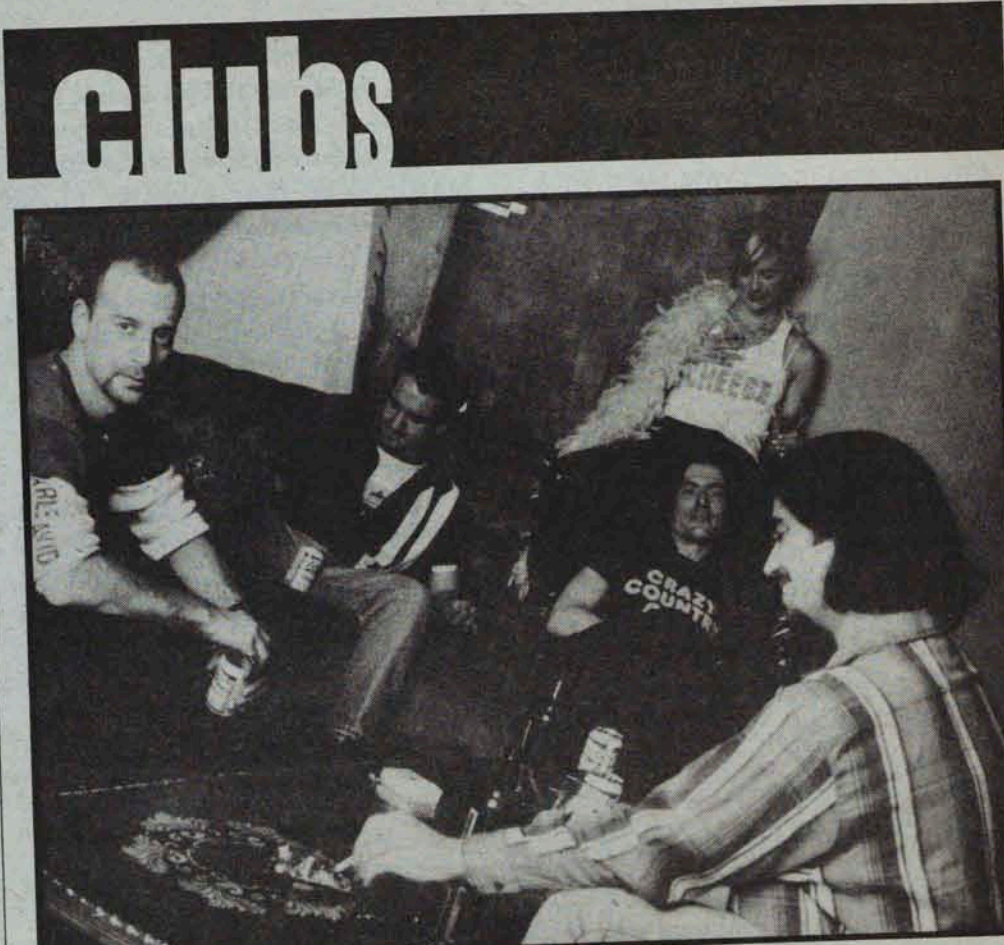
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### Prime cut

Lead vocalist of the ectoplasmic, neutron-charged band **SWOON**, Sasha Ilovic, fancies herself a chosen one — chosen by extraterrestrials, that is — with a duty to transmit sound waves. After spending the past three years in New York City opening for acts ranging from Juliana Hatfield to The Vindals, Swoon is ready to take it on the road. Ilovic and bandmates Sid, Jim, Scotty and drummer Evan Burr, who claims the ability to channel his ancestor Aaron Burr, will rock the planet Sept 7 at Geno's, 13 Brown St, Portland. Tix: \$3. 772-7891.

### thursday 5

**The Basement**  
Open Mic with Chronic Funk, 1 Exchange St, Portland. 828-1111.

**The Big Easy**  
Big Chief (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Tom Cotter, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Busk (progressive), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
T.B.A., 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.

**Hedgehog Pub**  
Jenny Woodman acoustic (rock), 35 India St, Portland. 871-9124.

**The Moon**  
College Night (DJ Jayce spins top 40 dance), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Brown Dog Pub**  
Live acoustic music, 47 pm, 11 Brown St, Portland. 934-4802.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Empty Salad (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Pop's**  
Ken Grimley Trio (acoustic rock), 133 Free St, Portland. 773-5131.

**Raoul's**  
Robin & Linda Williams and Their Fine Group (country bluegrass), 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
The Committed: Tour (stars from "The Commitments"), 14 York St, Portland. 772-2337.

**Tipperary Pub**  
Greg Powers (karaoke), Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland. 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
"70s Retro Dance with Bob Look, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Uptown Billy's Barbeque**  
Karl Newberg (jazz/blues), 1 Forest Ave, Portland. 780-0141.

**Zootz**  
They Might Be Giants (alt-pop — 21+/8 pm), Bounce! (DJ Larre Love spins with special guests til 3 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Boneheads (R&B), 14 York St, Portland. 772-2337.

**T-Birds**  
DJ Steve Nason ('70s, '80s and '90s dance music), 126 N. Boyd St, Portland. 773-8040.

**Tipperary Pub**  
T.B.A., Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland. 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Dance Party with DJ Andy, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Free Street Taverna**  
The Brood (rock), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
T.B.A., 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.

**Java Joe's**  
T.B.A., 13 Exchange St, Portland. 761-5637.

**The Moon**  
Ladies' Night (DJ Bob Look), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Brown Dog Pub**  
Live acoustic music, 47 pm, 11 Brown St, Portland. 934-4802.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Empty Salad (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Pop's**  
Ken Grimley Duo (acoustic rock), 133 Free St, Portland. 773-5131.

**Raoul's**  
Beyond Reason and Unbroken Chain ('70s rock), 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Boneheads (R&B), 14 York St, Portland. 772-2337.

**T-Birds**  
DJ Steve Nason ('70s, '80s and '90s dance music), 126 N. Boyd St, Portland. 773-8040.

**Tipperary Pub**  
T.B.A., Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland. 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Dance Party with DJ Andy, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Uptown Billy's Barbeque**  
Charlie and Claudia (jazz/blues), 1 Forest Ave, Portland. 780-0141.

**Verrillo's**  
Chameleon (top 40), 155 Riverside St, Portland. 775-6536.

**Zootz**  
Rumford, Cerberus Shoal and Swaylode (alt-blues — 21+/9 pm), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**thursday 7**

**The Big Easy**  
Child Support Blues Band (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Bob Marley, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Lisa Gallant Seal & The Brotherhood Dogs (tough chick rock), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
T.B.A., 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.

**The Moon**  
Portland's Best Dance Party (DJ Dale Dorsett), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Tempest (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
DJ Jim Dawg Lynch (dance music), 188 Middle St, Portland. 773-6422.

**Raoul's**  
Heavens To Murgatroid and Wax Philosophy (original pop-rock), 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Blue Steel Express, 14 York St, Portland. 772-2337.

**Tipperary Pub**  
T.B.A., Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland. 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Dance Party with DJ Andy, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Uptown Billy's Barbeque**  
King Leer (jazz/blues), 1 Forest Ave, Portland. 780-0141.

**Verrillo's**  
Chameleon (top 40), 155 Riverside St, Portland. 775-6536.

**Zootz**  
Decades of Dance ('70s, '80s and '90s dance music), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**sunday 8**

**Comedy Connection**  
George Hamm's Comedy Showcase, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Tarpligh, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**The Moon**  
House and Request Night (DJ Dale), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Tom Accousti, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Raoul's**  
The Eric Hamilton Band (southern rock & blues), 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**The Underground**  
Dance with Jammin' Joe Bermodez, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Wharf's End**  
Ken & Amy's Night from Hell, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.

**Zootz**  
The Melvins (earth-shattering grunge — 7 pm), All Request Night (dance, dance dance — 9 pm-3 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**monday 9**

**The Big Easy**  
Laser Karaoke with Ray Dog, 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Open Mic with The Dan Comeau Band, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**The Moon**  
Teen Night (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
T.B.A., 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Raoul's**  
Blue Monday, Southern Maine Blues Society meeting and jam, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Wharf's End**  
Open Mic with Ken Grimley, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.

**Zootz**  
Funeral (Gothic industrial dance music — 9 pm / 21+), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

### tuesday 10

**The Big Easy**  
Mike Hayward's All-Star Revue (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Big World, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**The Moon**  
Reggae Night (DJ Tish spins), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Lazy Lightning (Dead covers), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Steamers Bar & Grill**  
State Street Traditional Jazz Band (jazz), Jordan's Seafood Restaurant, 700 Main St, So. Portland. 780-8434.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Petting Zoo (dance-funk), 14 York St, Portland. 773-2337.

**Wharf's End**  
Ken & Butt Unplugged (acoustic rock), 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room open, 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

### wednesday 11

**The Big Easy**  
Red Light Revue (blues/R&B), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Open Mic Night with Darien Brahms, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Hedgehog Pub**  
Open Mic with The Insiders (blues), 35 India St, Portland. 871-9124.

**The Industry**  
Chick Open Mic Night with Darien Brahms, 128 Free St, Portland. 879-0865.

**The Moon**  
Chem-Free Dance Night (18+), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
T.B.A., 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
DJ Jim Dawg Lynch (dance music), 188 Middle St, Portland. 773-6422.

**Raoul's**  
Children's Miracle Network Benefit, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Snappin' Gomez and Sonah (jam-rock), 14 York St, Portland. 773-2337.

**The Underground**  
Dance, Dance, Dance with Bob Look, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room open, 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

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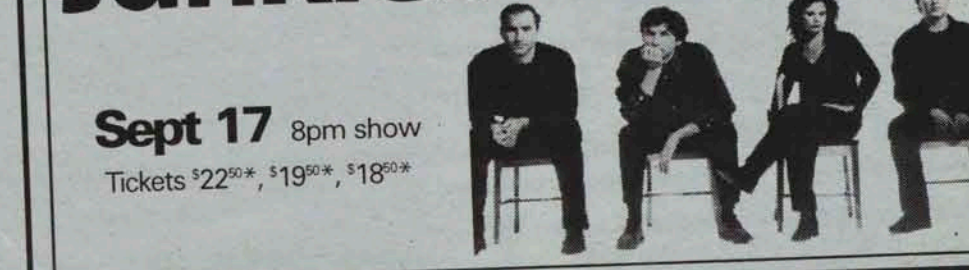
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# calendar

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to the publication. Send your calendar listings to Zoë Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.



**tuesday 10** The tango was born in rhythm-saturated Buenos Aires, but you don't have to leave Maine to do this sensual, social dance. Professional dancers and teachers Daniel Trenner (pictured here with Rebecca Shulman) and Florencia Taccetti bring their tango expertise to you. No matter what your dancing background, Trenner and Taccetti will get you up on your feet and help you unravel the tango's intimate and expressive mysteries. At Agape, 657 Congress St., from 7-9 p.m., (practice from 9-10 p.m.). Tuesdays through Oct. 15. Cost: \$10. No partner necessary. 883-3923.

**thursday 5** These guys are the kind of musicians you've got to love. You won't see **They Might Be Giants** splattered all over the cover of every magazine. Where you will find the duo-turned-quartet is on stage playing exuberantly and broadcasting its weird and whiny lyrics. Join these down-to-earth sorts at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$5 (\$21+). 773-8187. **friday 6** When four very different artists come together on one project, the results are entirely unpredictable. Such is the case with "Exquisite Corpse: Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," a collaborative sculptural installation by Mary Anderson, Duncan Hewitt, William Pope and Michael Shaughnessy. Feast your eyes on the final product with the artists at the opening reception Sept. 5 from 6-8 p.m. at the Danforth Gallery, 34 Danforth St. The exhibition shows through Sept. 29. 775-6245. **saturday 7** What could a farce about matrimony circa 1830 possibly have to say to 1990s America? Let's just say the more things change, the more they stay the same. Vintage Repertory Company presents a new adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's comic look at the ups and downs of wedlock in "Marriage," with Jane Bergeron and David Blair playing all 12 quirky commitment-shy characters. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., at 8 p.m. "Marriage" shows Sept. 5-22. Tix: \$12. 775-5103. **sunday 8** The Native American approach to life is one modern Americans seldom take time to recognize, but could learn a great deal from. The fifth annual **Native American Appreciation Days** provides a rare chance to do so, with dancing, storytelling, crafts and demonstrations. Speakers include Donald Manalonsan, chief of the Wampanoag nation, and Wayne Newell of the Passamaquoddy nation. Join Native American tribes from Maine and beyond to celebrate and share their customs, beliefs and skills at Cumberland Fairground, Route 100, Cumberland, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sept. 7 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.). Admission: \$4 (\$3 kids/under 5 free). 934-2502. **monday 9** The last time **Barenaked Ladies** came to town they played a noontime concert in Monument Square that had the crowd in stitches. If you want some comic relief, not to mention some good, rocking, John Wesley Harding-esque tunes, go to the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., at 8 p.m. Tix: \$16 (\$14 advance). 879-1112. **wednesday 11** You probably know your chickadees, blue jays and cardinals, but what other birds make their home in our fair state? Don't fret. "Audubon's Birds of America, Down East," presented by bird expert Stephen May, will give you the dirt on everything that flies over Maine. At Maine Audubon Society's Gillsland Farm Environmental Center, 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 p.m. Cost: \$12. 781-2330. **thursday 12** Bernardo Bertolucci snagged queen-of-the-media-prom Liv Tyler to play the lead in his latest film, "Stealing Beauty." Tyler does her darnedest to render a precocious, inexperienced young American who leaves her lame high school life for the cultural excitement of Tuscany. She quickly finds herself, and her virginity, the object of every Italian's lust. Surprise - Jeremy Irons keeps Tyler company. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m. Shows through Sept. 17. Tix: \$4.25. 772-9600. **friday 13** With all the food being grown right here on Maine soil, nobody should go hungry. What better way to drive the point home than by building **Maine's largest salad bar**? Join a host of community organizations as they collaborate to promote healthy eating and stamp out hunger by munching away on fresh Maine veggies at Congress Square from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 874-8618. **saturday 14** Who would've thought that the man who produced McDonald's priceless "Food, Folks & Fun" jingle was also a romantic piano sensation? **Jim Brickman** may not have the frankness of John Tesh or the pre-Raphaelite locks of Yanni, but he's young, toasty and, yes, romantic. Let him serenade you at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., at 8 p.m. Tix: \$21.50-\$40. 879-1112.



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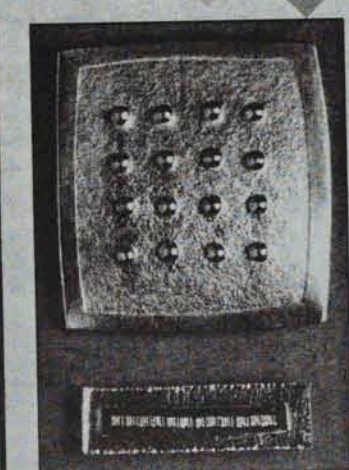
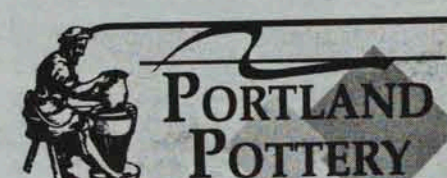
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| Yefim Bronfman<br>November 7                                 | Peter Schickele<br>March 7    |
| Pirates of Penzance<br>November 14                           | Street Sounds<br>March 12     |
| Anonymous 4<br>December 18                                   | Herb Pomeroy Group<br>April 3 |
| La Bohème<br>February 1                                      | Itzhak Perlman<br>April 16    |
| The Complete (Abridged) History of America<br>February 8     | Cleo Laine<br>April 19        |

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

**Renaissance Antiques** 221 Commercial St., Portland. Ongoing show of works by John Dehlinger, Wilder Oaks, Terry Wolf and other Maine artists. Hours: 10 am-7 pm daily. 879-0789.

**Salt Gallery** 17 Pine St., Portland. "The People of the Barrens" recent photographs by David Brooks Stess show through Sept 21. Hours: Wed & Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm. 761-0660.

**The Spring Point Museum** at Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Rd., So. Portland. "Portland Harbor, 1865-1900: Making a Living in Stormy Times." Ongoing. Hours: Wed-Sun 10 am-4 pm. Admission: \$2 (kids free). 799-6337.

**Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers** 415 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Paintings by David Little and marquetry by Bruce Babbe show through Oct 5. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm. 774-3791.

**The Underground Gallery at the Casco Bay Country Store** 185 Park Row, Brunswick. Work by Mili Chapell. Ongoing. 725-3907.

**USM Osher Map Library** 314 Forest Ave., Portland. "Jerusalem 3,000: Three Millennia of History" shows through Oct 5. Hours: Wed 1-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Thurs & Sat from 9 am-12:30 pm. 780-4850.

**Walter's Cafe** 15 Exchange St., Portland. Oil paintings by Brian Currier show through Sept 30. 871-9258.

**The Whimsical World of David Cedrone** 150 High St., Portland. 761-2808.

**Will's Restaurant** 78 Island Ave., Peak's Island. Paintings by Lenny Hutch. Ongoing. 766-3322.

### other

**"Activating Your Creativity"** Agape presents a monthly opportunity to share your creative products in a safe, supportive environment. At 657 Congress St., Portland. Suggested donation: \$5. 780-1500.

**Artists Apply** Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, invites artists to submit work for one-month exhibition in the Lewis gallery. 871-1758.

**Artists Wanted** to exhibit two-dimensional work at USM's Area Gallery. Please send slides, resume and proposal to Karen Kitchen, Director, USM Art Galleries, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, Me. 04104-9300. 780-5008.

**"Athena: A Journal for Positive Women"** seeks submissions of poetry, photography, short stories and drawings on the topic of spirituality, by women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by the Maine Women's Fund. Send submissions to: ATHENA, The AIDS Project, P.O. Box 5305, Portland Me 04101. 774-6877.

**"Behind-the-Scenes" Trip to Paris** Oct 18-28. As part of its new travel program for members, the Portland Museum of Art offers 10-day trip to Paris and Southern France to study Cubism for 20 members, led by the Museum's Joan Whitney Payson curator, Dr. Kenneth Wayne. Cost: \$2,890 plus airfare. For more info on PMA's new travel program, or on how to become a member, call 775-6148.

**Call For Work** Danforth Gallery invites all Maine artists age 55 or older to submit work for its 7th annual "Senior Perspectives: Expressions of Spirituality" exhibition. Please send a SASE for the prospectus to "Expressions of Spirituality," Danforth Gallery, 20-36 Danforth St., Portland, ME 04101, or call 775-6550.

**"Dirt, Water and Masterpieces"** Creative Work Systems continues its Arts in the Evening classes with a four-session exploration of clay. Sept 5 & 14. At CWS Art Studio, 400 Congress St., Portland. For more info or to register, call Brent Laffin at 879-1140.

**Gallery Talks: The Cubist Spirit** Portland Museum of Art presents weekly talks on the current exhibition "Picasso, Braque, Léger and the Cubist Spirit, 1919-1939." "Bob Goodwin: Cubism and the Innovation of Musical Tonality," Sept 5 at 7 pm and Sept 6 at 12:30 pm. At PMA, 7 Congress Sq., Portland. 775-6148.

**Healing Through Arts** A group integrating art, healing and spiritual development meets the last Sun of the month from 7-9 pm at Studio 311, 20-36 Danforth St., Portland. 780-1681.

**"The Individual Eye"** L. Murray Jamison offers photography workshops for those wanting to learn more about using their own cameras. Saturdays throughout the summer. At the Diamond Cove Resort, great Diamond Island. Call to register. Cost: \$50. 871-8244.

**Internships** The Danforth Gallery, 34 Danforth St., Portland, seeks interns to coordinate exhibitions and for general gallery management. General work description can be tailored to suit applicant's interests. 775-6245.

**Maine Summer Institute in Graphic Design** for practicing professionals and advanced students. Sponsored by MECA, go to three one-week intensive classes led by internationally known designers Wolfgang Weingart, Deborah Sussman, Nancy Skolos and Thomas Wedell. Baxter Building, 619 Congress St., Portland. 775-5151.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

## etc Readers & writers raffle

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, the Brunswick-based organization that keeps all of us scribbles and scribes up to our necks in workshops, titles, info and good vibes, is holding a benefit raffle. Prizes, which range in value from \$60 to \$5,000, include a signed, framed print by Lincolnville artist Neil Welliver; a "children's bookshelf," a handcrafted tabletop bookshelf that comes with more than a dozen signed collector's editions of Maine children's books; an Apple QuickTake 150 digital camera; a Sharp UX-106 fax machine; lunch with author Carolyn Chute; three MWPA workshops of your choice; and two handcrafted bluebird houses.

Money raised will go toward expanding MWPA programs, which could include a critiquing service for writers, expanding workshop offerings throughout the state, expanding the book distribution service (which currently runs around 1,800 titles, including audio and video selections), and establishing a Web site. The drawing will be held Sept.

22 at the Common Ground Fair. Tickets are \$5 each, 6 for \$25, and can be purchased at Books Etc. and at all Bookland locations. You can also send a check to MWPA, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick, 04011, or call 729-6333 with a credit card.

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

## Nine

■ JIM PINFOLD

**1** The Irish-cum-New York band Solas played at Granny's several weeks ago and left numerous non-folkies wondering what they had missed. Without adding a synth or an Enya, Solas is escaping its confining genre. The volume startled many traditionalists sitting on their hands directly in front of the stage, but the rest of the crowd was quick to put down its pints to applaud. The extraordinary flute player, Seamus Egan, is the unassuming focal point, but Solas is driven by John Doyle, an acoustic guitar player who strong-arms the music with un-Celtic cross rhythms. They'll likely be back in the spring in some church. You could have heard them where they belong. Solas in a bar: A-

**2** Thank God for public access cable. The profiles of area criminals at large are reminiscent of the post office bulletin boards of my childhood. The kid basketball games are an endearingly no-frills community service. But watching Stan and Jeanne Brown of the Liberty Lighthouse Church gaze into the middle distance while an unintelligible song was being performed (live?) off camera was over the top. During the musical interlude the hosts, looking simultaneously wistful and uncomfortable, murmured "Jesus" over and over until the song ended. What they were praying for we can only guess. A-

**3** The movie "Tin Cup" was more amusing than I was led to believe, but the propensity of producers to stuff the soundtrack with so many superfluous songs has sunk to new lows. Nineteen songs, including three during the credits alone. Jesus spare us, Jesus spare us, Jesus spare us. Movie: B. Music: D.

**4** "This American Life" on Maine Public Radio is the single best hour on any station. The show began in early July and is being broadcast on a "trial basis" according to program director Charles Beck. The feedback to the stodgy network has been mixed at best and it probably won't last beyond fall. Catch it while you can on Sundays at 6 p.m. A-

**5** Backstage at the Whore Tour, one of the two drummers for King Crimson, Bill Bruford, was staring down at the remnants of dinner. He was asked what it was like to play in front of thousands of vacationing college kids who for the first time had just heard the large slabs of discordant music pumped out by his band.

"Sometimes they look up with a blank stare and sometimes they'll walk away," Bruford said. "But sometimes, you know, they really will connect. I mean, all they usually hear is four-chord stuff. If we can get the females to like it, then we're doing something right." King Crimson and Me'Shell Ndegocello: B+. Everyone else I heard: much less.

**6** The New Yorker's recent special double issue on music was the stuff of dreams, good interesting writing about a variety of performers. Though the Fugees piece was almost as dull as the band, the article on the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra was fascinating, and the Jo Stafford write-up encouraged me to spend yet another evening listening to one of America's great singers. Were she a bit younger, the magazine's coverage would have resurrected her career. Stafford in her prime: A. The music issue: A.

**7** World Music Inc. in Boston has assembled another superior concert series beginning this month. Featuring *quawwali* superstars The Sabri Brothers and Abida Parveen (no Nusrat this year — he's too big), Altan, Mali's glorious Oumou Sangare and the queen of Morna music, Cesaria E'vora, the program may empty my bank account. I'm already telling my family it will be a lean holiday season. For information, call (617) 826-4275. Had they not booked R. Carlos Nakai, it would have been an A.

**8** Melissa Etheridge clumped around the Civic Center stage last week looking for all the world like a less agile version of Bob Seger performing in the same building 15 years ago. Her phoned-in performance worried me, as her tour was only in its second week. Though she, predictably, mentioned Portland nine times in the first 20 minutes of the plodding show, it was readily apparent Etheridge was no longer capable of giving a shit. Dressed in uncomplimentary rock chick (her words, not mine) attire, she bellowed her way through two-plus hours. Had it not been for the game professionalism of drummer Kenny Aronson, I would have walked after the first few tortured minutes. Kenny: A-. Melissa: D.

**9** Kenny G playing at Ron Brown's widow, after lurking behind the curtain during her entire speech to the Democratic convention. The lurking: A. The playing: the usual D.

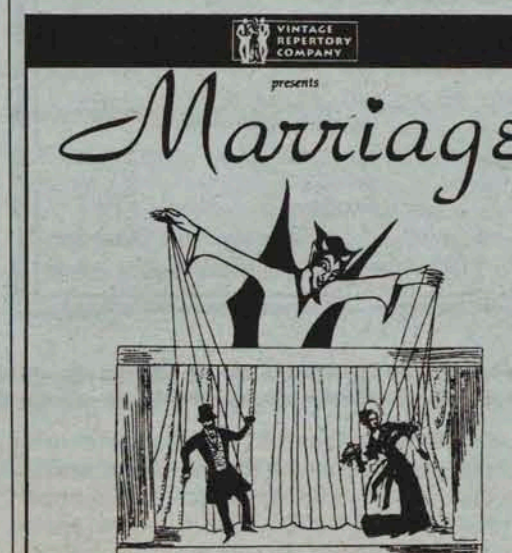


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**THE 11 BROWN STREET RESTAURANT.** Creative dining in the heart of Portland's Art District. Only 75 steps from the Cumberland County Civic Center. Specializing in fresh seafood. Sports Bar, banquets, business lunches. 11 Brown St., Portland. 780-1100. Visa, MC, AMEX. Parking.

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**J'S OYSTER.** White linen quality dining in a relaxed atmosphere. Shellfish and pasta dishes our specialty. Lovely view of Portland's working harbor. MC/Visa/Discover accepted. Parking in adjacent lot. 5 Portland Pier, Portland. 772-4828.

## CAFE

**BLACK TIE.** 870 Broadway, South Portland. Discover South Portland's most interesting lunch spot! Featuring hearty soups and sandwiches, healthy salads, entrees and fantastic bakery items. Daily specials - always! Dine-in or take-out. Open Monday-Friday 7:30-3:00. 799-7119.

**FRESH APPROACH.** The West End is getting fresh. Fresh coffee, baked goods, soups, salads, sandwiches & desserts can be enjoyed in our in-store cafe. Open M-F 7am-7pm Sunday 9am-5pm. 155 Brackett St., Portland (former Good Day Market location) 774-3297

**FRIENDSHIP CAFE.** Exceptional foods, Breakfast and Lunch served. Daily specials. Espresso, cappuccino. Located near Longfellow Square (where Good Egg was formerly located.) Portland's newest and fresh homemade meals! Open 6am-2pm Mon-Sat, 6:30-2 Sun. 703 Congress St., Portland. 871-5005.

**PORT BAKE HOUSE.** Take-out fresh baked pastries and great lunches. Summer seating on the deck. Soups with pizzaz, creative deli

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sandwiches and healthy salads. 205 Commercial St. Portland. 773-2217.

**VICTORY DELI & BAKE SHOP.** Hearty breakfasts, mouth watering baked from scratch breads and pastries - freshly prepared soups, stews, salads, pasta and vegetarian specialties, delicious sandwiches. Beer & wine. Monument Square, 299 Forest Ave and One Portland Square. MC/VISA accepted. 772-7299, 772-3913, 772-8186.

## LIGHT FARE

**SMILING HILL FARM ICE CREAM & SANDWICH SHOPPE.** Enjoy a leisurely lunch on the farm. Over-stuffed sandwiches, fresh garden salads, and farm-made chowders, chilis and soups in season. Daily 11-2. And, for dessert, choose from over 40 flavors of ice cream and non-fat frozen yogurts. Ice cream pies and cakes, frappes, floats, sundaes, cones, and a tempting sundae bar with over 20 mouth-watering toppings. Daily 11-8. Only minutes from the Maine Mall and Downtown Portland. 781 County Road (Route #22), Westbrook. 775-4818.

## DINER

**BECKY'S ON HOBSON'S WHARF.** Breakfast, lunch and now serving dinner Tuesday-Saturday evenings until 9pm. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 4am-9pm, Friday midnight-Saturday 9pm, Saturday midnight-Sunday 1pm, Monday 4am-2pm. Parking. & 390 Commercial St., Portland. 773-7070.

**BOOKSTORE/CAFE BORDERS BOOKS, MUSIC & CAFE.** Grab your favorite book or periodical and stroll over to our full espresso bar where you can select from a variety of specialty coffees, pastries, desserts and lunch/dinner items. Our hours are Mon-Sat: 9am-10:30pm, Sun: 9am-8:30pm. MC/Visa welcome. 430 Gorham Rd., at the Maine Mall.

## CARIBBEAN

**FEDERAL SPICE.** Home cooked Caribbean/Southwestern fare. Featuring heart smart selections. All items less than \$6! Everything available to go. Limited radius delivery 11:30-1:30 M-F. Hours Mon-Sat 11-9. 225 Federal Street, Portland, 774-6404.

## CHINESE

**ORIENTAL TABLE.** Serving reasonably priced lunch specials & dinner with a variety of appetizer & entree selections including seafood & vegetarian dishes. Entrees range from \$4.25 - \$10.75. The patio is open. Smoking & non-smoking. Featured in Maine Sunday Telegram's Taste & Tell section. Hrs. Sun 12-9pm, Mon-Thurs. 11:30-9pm, Fri & Sat 11:30-10pm. 106 Exchange St. 775-3388.

**POLYNESIAN VILLAGE.** Serving Polynesian and Cantonese cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere. Exotic cocktails and daily lunch and dinner specials. Live weekend entertainment. VISA, MC, American Express, Diner's Club. Parking. & 152 Main St., Westbrook. 854-9188.

## ECLECTIC

**THE AUDUBON ROOM.** Ocean views, elegant & intimate atmosphere, fine dining featuring New American Cuisine. House specialties include Maine Lobster Bisque, Grilled Seafoods, Vegetarian Pastas, Pan-seared Crabcakes & Rack of Lamb. Sinful, hand-made desserts may include Pomegranate Sorbet, Cappuccino Ice Cream or White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Tart. Open daily; breakfast, lunch, dinners from 6:00pm. Reservations recommended. Off premise catering. MC, VISA, AMEX, Discover. Inn By The Sea, Cape Elizabeth, 767-0888.

**THE BARKING SQUIRREL - CAFE IN THE PARK.** Deering Oaks Park, Portland. Portland's answer to "Tavern on the Green." Indoor/outdoor cafe with huge outdoor barbeque pit for lobster and clam bakes. Affordable homemade multi-ethnic and American cuisine starting at \$1.50: seafood, salads, burgers, burritos, rollups, pastas, coffee, ice cream, baked goods and more. Kid's menu available. Serving breakfast, lunch, Sunday brunch and dinner. Paddleboats, croquet, and other recreational rentals. Eat In/Take out. Mon-Sat 7:30am-8pm, Sun 7:30am-6:30pm. No credit cards. Parking. & 774-5514.

**CAFE ALWAYS.** 47 Middle St., 774-9399. Daily changing menu of Modern American Cuisine with "no food rules" such as center cut pork chops with pecan orange barbecue sauce and sweet potato salad. Also New York sirloin with Stilton - sun dried tomato butter. Open for dinner Tues. - Sun, starting at 5pm. Gift certificates and catering available. Voted "Most Romantic Restaurant" by Casco Bay Weekly. Free parking in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. CC, LL, R.

**GOOD TABLE.** Casual. Tasty weekend brunch. Full bar. Featuring seafood, barbecue & Greek. Old jazz music and good looking staff. Honest food, honest prices. Open 7 days Mon-Fri 11am-9pm, Sat/Sun 8-8. The Stardust Deck is open! MC/Visa. Parking Rte 77 Cape Elizabeth. 799-4663.

**GREAT LOST BEAR.** Full bar - now featuring 50 beers on tap. Extensive menu... sandwiches, soups, salads, platters. Lunch or dinner in the mysterious Woodfords area. MC, Visa, Amex accepted. Parking. 540 Forest Ave. Portland. 772-0300.

**KATAHDIN.** Daily Blue Plate Specials \$9.95 and unpretentious fare like Buckwheat Pasta. Homemade, Good Cookin'. Monday-Thurs 5-10 p.m., Friday & Saturday 5-11 p.m., Corner of Spring and High St. Portland.

**THE OSPREY.** From an aerial perch overlooking yachts and the marina enjoy elegant, intimate dining complete with white linen, extraordinary food, an extensive wine list and impeccable service. Nouveau American cuisine along with local seafood. Just 10 minutes from Bath on Robinhood Road off of Rte 127, Georgetown, ME. 371-2530 for reservations. VISA, MC, Discover.

**TABITHA JEANS.** 94 Free St., 780-8966. Maine's most cosmopolitan restaurant offering an eclectic menu with an emphasis on

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**THE WEST SIDE CAFE.** Offering fresh game and seafood, organic produce. Moderately priced entrees and a casual, comfortable ambiance. MC, Visa, AMEX accepted. Parking. Reservations suggested. 58 Pine St. Portland. 773-8223.

**ZEPHYR GRILL** is a brand new eatery filled with art objects, large tables and lots of light, airy space. The cooks are founders of such notable joints as Alan's Incredible Edibles, Alberta's and The Good Egg Cafe. Here, they're taking that joy of cooking to a new place. Check it out. Dinner 5-10. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. All major credit cards. Free parking at Joe's Smoke Shop. 653 Congress St., Portland. 828-4033.

## WOOD GRILL

**RACHEL'S WOOD GRILL.** Come enjoy inventive cuisine delicately seasoned with wood smoke and cooked the way God intended, over flame. Whether you're looking for a quick but memorable lunch or inspired dinner fare served in an elegantly unpretentious atmosphere. Stop on by, you won't be disappointed. Serving lunch & dinner. Beer & Wine available. Accepting MC & Visa. 90 Exchange St (Upper Exchange) 774-1192.

## GREEK

**FREE STREET TAVERNA.** Authentic Greek food. Family recipes and friendly atmosphere. First level: eatery/taverna. Second level: smoke free dining. NEW APPE-TIZER MENU and great weekend specials. Happy Holidays Happy Hour 2 for 1 drinks and drafts M-F 4-7pm. MC Visa accepted. 128 Free St., Portland. 774-1114.

## GOURMET TAKE-OUT

**PORTLAND WINE & CHEESE.** Delicious homemade soups and sandwiches, wines, champagnes and cheeses. Large selection of gourmet foods. Gift and picnic baskets. Party platters, catering and deliveries. MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 168 Middle St., Portland. 772-4647.

## INDIAN

**THE CLAY OVEN.** serves authentic Indian Cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere. The moist kebabs are cooked on slow charcoal fire, while the curries are prepared with freshly ground herbs and spices. There are many vegetarian choices on the menu. Open 11am - 10pm 7 days a week. Beer and wine available. Take-out available. All Major Credit Cards. 565 Congress St., Portland. 773-1444.

## ITALIAN

**ALFRESCO RISTORANTE.** Located in "Little Italy" section of town. Alfresco offers superb contemporary Italian cuisine in a romantic setting, prepared by owner-chef Al. Dinners 5pm-10pm, closed Mon-Tues, MC, VISA, AMEX. 41 Middle St., Portland. 774-2972.

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**ANTHONY'S ITALIAN KITCHEN.** Great Italian food made from old family recipes. "Best sauces in Portland." Low prices, high quality. Pizza, pasta, and sandwiches. Find us, you'll be glad! 151 Middle St., Portland (lower level). 774-8668.

**FRESH MARKET PASTA.** Voted "Best homemade pastas and sauces" in Portland 3 years running. Open for lunch, dinner. Italian wine and beers. Espresso. Cappuccino. Desserts. Bring the family! MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 43 Exchange St. 60 Market St. Portland. 773-7146.

**G'VANNI'S ITALIAN BISTRO.** An "Italian Bistro" in the heart of the Old Port. The focus is Italian, but you will find a wide variety of American entrees available. The wine list is accessible and well ordered. A perfect blend of casual dining and atmosphere awaits you at G'Vanni's. Serving Lunch & Dinner. Credit cards accepted. 37 Wharf St., Portland. 775-9061.

## PIZZERIA/DELI

**T. O. N.Y. BALONEY.** Introducing the best Brick Oven Pizza in the Old Port. Featuring a New York style deli with great Hero sandwiches and Antipastos. Come in and enjoy the scenic Old Port while you dine or we will deliver to your house in the Portland and South Portland areas (call to see if you are in our delivery area.) You can call your order in and have it ready for you when you arrive. Credit cards accepted. 40 Wharf St., Portland. 828-1910.

## BAR-B-QUE

**NORM'S BAR BQ.** Small chef owned BarBQ restaurant. Featuring Norm's wicked good sauce, 3 types of ribs, fried chicken, spicy black bean soup, homemade cornbread and daily specials. Now serving beer and wine. Hours: Tues-Thurs 12-10, Sat 12-11, Sun 3-9. Closed Mon. 43 Middle St., Portland.

**UPTOWN BILLY'S BARBEQUE.** Gold Medal Winner "First in Food" Portland Dining Guide. Enjoy legendary spare ribs, beef brisket, Jerk chicken, vegetarian specials and more in a comfortable setting. Etouffees, jambalayas, smoked pulled pork shoulder and great Lunch specials. Full bar. Entertainment, Lunch, Dinner. Take-out. Catering. Cappuccino/espresso. Mon-Fri Luncheon 11:30-4. Happy Hour 4-6. Dinner 4-Close. Saturday & Sunday Dinner Only 4-Close 1 Forest Ave (just off Congress) Parking Available. MC, VISA, AMEX, Diners. 780-0141.

**UNCLE BILLY'S BARBEQUE REVIVAL & CATERERS.** Ain't no UPTOWN imitation folks: nosiree, just the same ORIGINAL down home smokey AWARD WINNING spare ribs, Voodoo JERK chicken, pulled pork shoulder sandwich, and succulent cherry smoked beef brisket that Y'awl enjoyed for years in "Southside Billy's" served up the same old sloppy way. This time on picnic tables under God's sky... NO pretension here; no credit cards either... "Bar-b-que the way it should be." Jonny Saint

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THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY NITE

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- **Asian Tuna** ~ in a ginger and soy marinade, served with scallion cakes and wasabi cream fraiche
- **Fresh Grilled Salmon** ~ with a wild mushroom ragout - mushroom lovers unite.

We're baking fresh fruit pies

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Laurent. Adjacent ABC Gourmet Beverage Redemption Ctr. Rte. 302 North Windham 1,000 ft north of Seacoast Fun Park. 892-3015 ask for Jonny, Johnie, or Walter. Lunch/ Dinner Tues-Sun, 11:30 - close.

## MEXICAN

**MARGARITAS.** Specializing in delicious "hand-made" southern California style Mexican appetizers and dinners, served in overly generous portions! Join us for Happy Hour every weekday from 4-7 p.m., with FREE appetizers, \$1.95 for a 22 oz. draft beer and other good stuff! There's also 2 for 1 dinners, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Mon-Thurs. 1242 St. John St., Union Station Plaza, Portland. Open at 4 p.m. daily. 874-6444.

**MESA VERDE.** We are what we eat so we serve only the finest, freshest natural foods. Flavorful, healthful Mexican dishes. Vegetarian specials. Drink to your health at our juice bar. Happy Hour Mon-Fri 2:30-5:00. Fresh juices, fruit shakes, smoothies, juice combinations-come see what Portland's first and only juice bar is all about. Also serving fresh fruit margaritas, rum smoothies and other frozen delights. Casual atmosphere. Serving lunch & dinner. Take out available. 618 Congress Street (across from the State Theatre) 774-6089.

**TORTILLA FLAT.** Seventeen years of serving fine Mexican cuisine. Just minutes from downtown Portland. A memorable Mexican experience you can afford anytime. Outdoor screened in deck. Parking. VISA, M/C, Discover. 187 Forest Ave. Portland. 797-8729.

## MEDITERRANEAN

**BELLA BELLA ~ MEDITERRANEAN CLASSICS.** Lobster Paella, Tapas, Greek Pork Stifatho, French Plat Niçoise, Moroccan hen, Pastas and Vegetarian dishes, Homemade bread and desserts & a nice little wine list! Reservations accepted. 606 Congress St., Portland. 828-1550.

## SOUTHWESTERN

**ZUNI.** Southwestern to Caribbean cuisine. Great food, outstanding value, ever changing menu. Fresh squeezed fruit drinks. Smoke-free environment. Open for Dinner 7 nights. MC, VISA and AMEX. 21 Pleasant Street, Portland. 774-5260.

## PUB FARE

**BRIAN BORU.** Offers traditional Irish fare as well as not so traditional pub alternatives. Hearty stews, homemade breads, awesome pub sandwiches and pasta dishes. Credit cards & handicapped accessible. Irish Brunch and \$1.50 Bass, Harp & Guinness all day Sunday. VISA, MC, AMEX. 57 Center St., Portland.

## CHOCOLATIER

**AUREA.** Europe's Finest Chocolate. Leonidas, Vairthona, La Tour D'Argent, LaNoix, Gaillarde, Petrossian, Hediard and other gourmet foods including cassoulet and pates. 3 Milk St., Portland. 773-6737.

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HOME SWEET HOME

# HOME

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**we all love to read** **Casco Bay Weekly**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

**MECA Open House Tours** Come visit Maine College of Art's new studio space at 522 Congress Street. RSVP 775-5098.

**Open Slide Night** The Union of Maine Visual Artists invites artists, craftspeople and anyone interested to attend an open slide night the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at Jay York Affordable Photo, 58 Wilnot St, Portland. Bring slides for discussion/feedback. 773-3434.

**Portland Camera Club** holds weekly meeting, Mon at 7:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 413 Broadway, S. Portland. Monthly events include B&W, color print and color slide competition. 854-3763.

**Portland Chamber of Commerce** is looking for Maine artists to share their work. 772-2811, ext. 223.

**Pottery Classes** for kids and adults offered at Sawyer Street Studios, S. Portland. Costs and times vary. 767-4394.

**Randy Bean Fund** Created in honor of long-time member of Maine Arts Sponsors Association (MASA) Randy Bean, to assist an artist in attending the annual MASA conference. Contributions may be sent to: The MASA Randy Bean Fund, P. O. Box 2352, Augusta, ME 04338. 626-3277.

**Sawyer Street Studios** 131 Sawyer St, Portland holds summer classes in pottery and clay sculpture for adults and children. Hours: Thur 4-8 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am-6 pm, and by appointment. 767-7113.

**Visual Artists and Computer Users** interested in joining a group to "inter-and-intra" the New Millennium can link up at the non-profit Maine artists space, Danforth Gallery, 34 Danforth St, Portland. For more info, call Roland Salazar Rose at 775-6245.

**"Winslow Homer and American Watercolor Technique"** Sept 5. Judith Walsh, senior paper conservator, National Gallery of Art, and curator of "An Amazing Bit of Sleight of Hand: Winslow Homer's Watercolor Techniques" delivers a lecture, followed by a viewing of the exhibition. At Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

**Young at Art** Judy Faust offers courses for kids grades K-5 in clay sculpture and mixed media. 761-9438.

## smarts

### events

**Booksignings** Greater Bookland and Cafe, Cook's Corner, Brunswick hosts a number of authors for readings and signings. Sept 5: Olive Pierce signs copies of her new book "Up River: The Story of a Maine Fishing Community," a collaboration of photos and text with Carolyn Chute, from 7-8:30 pm. Sept 7: William Wegman signs copies of his new book "Mother Goose," from 11 am-noon. Charlotte MacLeod signs copies of her new book "Exit the Milkman," from 1-2:30 pm. 725-2313.

**Fall Writing Retreat** Oct 4-6, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance presents its annual three day retreat of workshops. At Camp Caribou, Winslow. Cost: \$265 (\$210 members). To register, call 729-6333.

**"Internet and Network Security Issues"** Sept 10. A breakfast discussion hosted by Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, 100 Middle St, Portland from 7:45-9 am. 774-1200.

**"Internet Happy Hour"** Get online for free Sept 9 & 16 at Borders Books & Music, 430 Gorham Rd., So. Portland, from 4-8 p.m. Call ahead to reserve time. 775-6110.

**Matlovich Society** An educational organization of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and friends meets the second and fourth Thurs of the month. Sept 12: Tom Cathcart talks about "Taking a Stand Against Discrimination," at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland, from 7:30-9 pm. 761-4380.

**Personal Enrichment Series** Sept 11: "How To Get Your Poetry Published." Join the staff of Wordplay Magazine for tips on what it takes to get your work in print. At Borders Books & Music, 430 Gorham Rd., So. Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 775-6110.

**"Platform, Poetry & Prose"** Sept 12. A forum that promotes creativity and originality. All ages and ability levels welcome. At Borders Books & Music, 430 Gorham Rd., So. Portland, at 8 pm. Free. 775-6110.

**"The Steamboat Era on Casco Bay"** Sept 8. The Center for Maine History sponsors a cruise and lecture with Maine seacoast veteran Jim Millinger. Cruise departs from Long Wharf at 2 pm. Advance reservations required. Cost: \$20. 879-0427.

**Women's Advantage Network and NAFE Northeast Regional Reception** Sept 10. The Women's Advantage Network hosts the National Association of Female Executives northeast reception and dinner. At the Italian Heritage Center, 40 Westland Ave, Portland. Cost: \$20 (\$15 members). Call for reservations. 781-4432.

## others

**Agape Center for Soul, Community and the Arts.** 657 Congress St, Portland, offers discussions and workshops on various topics. "Circle of Men" meets alternating Fridays 12:15-1:45 pm. "Meditation in Community," with Joan Orr Wadman, meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 pm. Cost: \$5. "Tibetan Meditation and Study Group" meets the first Sun of the month from 10 am-noon. Donation: \$5. 781-1500.

**Boatbuilding Cooperative**, to provide space and tools for amateur builders. For more info, call 766-2583.

**Center For Maine History** 489 Congress St, Portland. The exhibit "From Souchow Teas to Canton Silks: The Exotic China Trade in Everyday Maine, 1760-1900" shows through October 5. 879-0427.

**Computer Know-How** The Small Business Development Center at USM has two Lotus/IBM Learning Centers available to help people in business learn how to use Lotus 123, One-Write Plus and WordPerfect 5.1. Appointments available Mon-Fri. Internet access courses available also. Free. 780-4949.

**Computer Training Courses** offered at Technology Training Center, 39 Darling Ave, So. Portland. 780-6765.

**Dharma Study Group** offers sitting meditation Sundays 9 am-noon at the office of Sarah Builey, third floor, Thomas Moser Building, 60 Forest Ave. Meditation instruction is also available by appt. 761-0047.

**Exhibitors Wanted** The Women's Business Development Corporation invites companies with a product or service directed to small businesses to exhibit at the Business-to-Business Trade Show Oct 23 at the Augusta Civic Center. Cost of a booth is \$125. Contact Susan MacPherson for more info, at 622-5330.

**Free Personality and IQ Testing** at The Dianetics Center, 2 Lincoln St, Brunswick. Call for an appointment. 725-1066.

**Intercultural Discussion Group** meets Mondays, 7 pm, at the Center for Intercultural Education, 565 Congress St, Portland. Volunteers are needed as well. 775-0547.

**Internet Access at USM** for small business owners. Explore how the internet can help your business. Appointments are available Mon-Fri. Free but limited. 780-4949.

**Internet Training Classes** Internet Maine offers introductory and intermediate classes on how to use the net and HTML made easy every three weeks, at 449 Forest Ave, Portland. Cost: \$25. 780-0416.

**Japanese Lessons** with Japan America Society of Maine, at 993 Forest Ave, Portland. Classes available for kids and adults. 878-9440.

**Language Exchange** 392 Fore St, Portland. Offers seminars and workshops on foreign languages. 772-0405.

**Lesbian Fiction Writing Workshop** Contact Joanne to join. 797-2856.

**Maharishi Vedic School** 575 Forest Ave, Portland. "Awakening Full Mental Potential: the Transcendental Meditation Program," a lecture on the health benefits of TM, every Wed at 7 pm. 774-1108.

**Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance** at 12 Pleasant St, Brunswick, offers workshops on a regular basis. Sept 7: "Writing For Movies and TV," a workshop with screenwriter Michael Kimball from 10 am-3 pm, at Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq, Portland. Cost: \$55 (\$45 members). "Writing Nonfiction for Publication" an 8-week course with John Cole begins Sept 11, from 7-9 pm. Preregistration required. 729-6333.

**Media on the Beach** Southern Maine Technical College offers video and multi-media summer workshops for professionals. Workshops begin now. Call to register. 767-9524.

**Portland Laptop Users Group** meets Mondays at 7:15 am at the Clark Associates Building, 2331 Congress St, Portland. Reservations and a laptop required. 775-1140 or 772-8666.

**Portland Pottery** Pottery, jewelry and basket-making classes. Wide selection for adults and children. 772-4334.

**Portland Public Access Cable** offers video production classes in studio, location and editing this winter and spring. Create programming for Channel 2. 780-5941 or 780-5957.

**Portland Sufi Order** offers classes and discussions at the Expressive Therapy Center, 150 St. John St, Portland. 878-2263.

**SCORE** 66 Pearl St, Portland, holds small business workshops on a regular basis. SCORE also offers free individual counseling appointments daily. Nominal fee. 772-1147.

**Sign Language Classes** Introductory lessons on Tues, from 6-8:30 pm, at 251 High St, So. Portland. Cost: \$45 for 10 weeks. 767-6247.

**Women's Business Development Corporation** promotes and supports business ownership for Maine women with classes, workshops and regular meetings. For more info, call 442-7911 or e-mail mdenzere@aol.com. CBW

## SHORT

# cuts

### Metal unmemorable

All musical scenes and styles follow pretty much the same story: A handful of visionaries constructs a style, an audience discovers the sound and it eventually becomes popular. More bands start using the same sound to win over the audience, and soon the audience gets bored with the scene because everything sounds the same. It looks like the Portland metal scene is near death because it's well into the phase of everything sounding the same.

A case in point is the band Vicious Cycle and its new CD, "Debt." Despite obvious musical skill and clear production, Vicious Cycle's "Debt" stands in the shadow of nearly every other Portland metal band, particularly Twisted Roots and Tripe. It's the same '70s-inspired heavy metal with some progressive rock touches that is performed by a dozen other bands on the scene. Making matters worse is that Vicious Cycle has only a modicum of songwriting skill. Unlike your garden-variety mediocre song, which you can hardly remember minutes after it's over, most of the songs on "Debt" are hard to remember even while you're listening to them. Only those who are desperately in love with every aspect of the Portland metal scene will want to acquire this debt.

Vicious Cycle's "Debt" is available at Bull Moose Music for \$10 and Bad Habits for \$10.99.

### Stag party

One band that's never had a problem establishing its own identity is the San Francisco trio The Melvins. Back in the '80s, when the band was based in the Seattle



area, it was one of the first groups to look at metal and punk not as mortal enemies, but as two means of attaining the same goal — ultimate heaviness. As the grunge scene it inspired was forming, The Melvins headed for California. The band later signed with Atlantic and, instead of watering down its sound, remained committed to its goal of blowing out speakers by any means necessary. The Melvins' latest album, "Stag," finds the band at its most assured and adventuresome, playing a myriad of styles including metal-punk, funk, '70s-style boogie, pop ballads and country blues. The album is remarkable not just because the band pulls it all off, but also because, despite all the genre-hopping, the musical character of The Melvins never seems compromised. Guitarist/singer King Buzzo has said that the band's approach to music has always been "all or nothing." Because of its commitment to sonic extremity, this is a band that will always be powerful and perplexing, and 100 percent The Melvins.

The Melvins perform Sept. 8 at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., at 7 p.m. Tix: \$8 advance, \$10 day of show. 773-8187.

### Sweet and low

The Minnesota trio Low brings another type of sonic extremity to town. Unlike The Melvins, who seek out the extremes of louder and heavier, Low does the same for quieter and softer. The band is part of a mini-movement in the underground rock scene that defiantly refuses to rock in any traditional sense. Simple, repetitive chord changes, arpeggios and vocals one notch above a whisper make up the bulk of Low's latest album, "The Curtain Hits the Cast." The music, though quiet and soft, never seems laid-back. There's always an element of tension that grows and diminishes and occasionally results in a Velvet Underground-styled guitar break, but never resolves itself. Dramatic use of silence and impossibly long notes contribute to a sense of time held still. It's perfect for Sunday morning listening and quite affecting, but its lack of dynamics and variety will try those not in Low's particular mindset. Even so, you can't say you've heard it all before.

Low, with Godrays, performs Sept. 13 at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$5. 773-8187.

■ DAN SHORT

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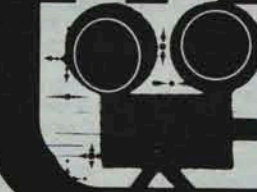
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# meet you @ the movies



see page 28  
**Casco Bay Weekly**



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Haley Joel Osment and Gerard Depardieu share a tender moment in "BOGUS."

**ALASKA** Two brave city-bred tykes (Thora Birch and Vincent Kartheiser) head into the Alaskan wilds to find their Dad (Dirk Benedict) and his downed plane. The kids translate their street-smarts into outdoorsiness, kayaking and climbing their way to Daddy. Directed by Fraser Heston ("Needful Things").

**ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN 2** Heaven's a nice place, but it does get a little boring. Charlie Sheen lends his voice to the brave pup who leaves the good life of the house of many mansions behind to retrieve the angel Gabriel's stolen horn from the land of the living.

**BOGUS** Whoopi Goldberg reluctantly takes in the son of her childhood best friend. As if losing her independence weren't bad enough, she has to contend with his "imaginary" friend Bogus (Gerard Depardieu). Things turn heartwarming when the child pulls Goldberg out of her strict reality and into his world.

**BULLETPROOF** Damon Wayans and Adam Sandler, who both found their way to the big screen via TV sketch comedy, join forces as a cop (Wayans) and a robber (Sandler) on the run from some bad doobies. Expect to see plenty of Sandler's weird antics as he annoys the crap out of Wayans.

**COURAGE UNDER FIRE** Finally a woman goes to war and gets to do more than bandage her brothers. Meg Ryan plays a Medevac pilot up for a posthumous Medal of Honor. Denzel Washington is the Gulf War vet, demoted for a "friendly fire" incident, who investigates her case.

**THE CROW: CITY OF ANGELS** What could be more fitting for a movie like "The Crow" than a sequel? Brandon Lee's legacy is carried on by Vincent Perez and his psychic gal-pal, Mia Kirshner. Perez plays a slain auto mechanic who comes back from the grave to get revenge on his killers. Fans of the original will be happy to find the same level of dread and goth, thanks to production designer Alex McDowell.

**EMMA** Enough with Jane Austen already! "Emma" is yet another adaptation of the famous author's works, except without the sensuality of "Sense and Sensibility," the humor of "Clueless," or the emotion of "Persuasion." Scrupulously faithful to Austen's text, writer-director Douglas McGrath ("Bullets Over Broadway") has omitted the novel's style and social commentary.

**ERASER** Super buff and heavily armed, Arnold Schwarzenegger plays the ultimate witness protector, a federal marshal nicknamed "Eraser" for his knack at deleting the identity of endangered individuals. Vanessa Williams is the poor innocent who has seen more than she should. The rest is a series of explosions — \$80 million worth.

**THE FAN** Robert De Niro attempts to recapture the magic of his Travis Bickle role in "Taxi Driver," here as a knife salesman driven over the edge by the battling slums of his boss, Bobby Rayburn (Wesley Snipes).

**FIRST KID** The usually adult-only comedian Sinbad tests his kid-appeal in this comedy-drama about the ups and downs of guarding the President's son.

**HOUSE ARREST** Grover and Stacy Beindorf, played by Kevin Pollack and Jamie Lee Curtis, are locked in the basement by their kids after they announce that they plan to separate. By the end of the movie, nearly every parent in the neighborhood with a marriage on the rocks gets trapped down there. Screenwriter Michael Hitchcock said he wanted this to be a "Parent Trap" for the 1990s. He never bothered to ask himself the big question: did we really need the first one?

**INDEPENDENCE DAY** Lots of aliens. Lots of explosions. A "War of the Worlds" for the '90s.

**THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU** Marlon Brando's dark and brooding as the scientist who crossbreeds humans with animals in John Frankenheimer's adaptation of H.G. Wells' 1896 novel. Also starring Val Kilmer, Patricia Barks and David Thewlis.

**JACK ROLL** William plays an average 10-year-old kid who happens to grow up four times faster than normal. The question is, can Williams retreat the ground covered so well by Tom Hanks in "Big" without seeming like a copycat?

**JOHN CARPENTER'S ESCAPE FROM L.A.** Fifteen years later, it's the sequel to John Carpenter's science-fiction thriller, "Escape From New York." Kurt Russell returns to the rough and tough role of Snake Plissken — the very definition of the outlaw biker. Snake battles South American revolutionary Cuervo Jones (George Camacho) and a corrupt government in the nearly demolished City of Angels to restore order in the U.S.A. Also starring Peter Fonda, Steve Buscemi and Pam Grier (a.k.a. "Foxy Brown").

**KINGPIN** Woody Harrison and Randy Quaid star as Roy Munson, a former bowling champ with a vendetta, and Ishmael, his Amish protégé. Bill Murray plays the evil Ernie "Big Em" McCracken, the jerk responsible for mutilating Munson's hand and causing his subsequent downfall. Also starring Vanessa Angel.

**MATILDA** Danny DeVito directs and stars with wife Rhea Perlman as a pair of mean, nasty, deadbeat parents in this comic adaptation of the Roald Dahl book. Despite their efforts to keep their little girl down, Matilda (Mara Wilson) develops magic powers that help her beat the rap.

**MULTIPLICITY** Michael Keaton plays Doug Kinney, a hard-working guy who can't get a break. His fetching wife (Andie MacDowell) wants to go back to work. But who will look after the kids and keep things shipshape around the house? Enter Doug's cartoon copy, "Number Two" designated to take over at work. But "Two" isn't enough, and "Three" and "Four" prove to be too much. In the end, Doug learns that family must always come first. Another feel-good comedy from Harold Ramis. Penned by husband and wife team Chris Miller ("Animal House") and Mary Hale, who, we're proud to say, are uncle and aunt to

CBW Best Girl Zoë Miller.

**THE ROCK** With enough testosterone to grow hair on even the damiest chest, "The Rock" should satisfy all cravings for an action-packed summer blockbuster — or fall gloriously. Director Michael Bay ("Bad Boys") follows an FBI chemical weapons expert (Nicolas Cage) and the only known Alcatraz escapee (Sean Connery) through the bowels of that most dreaded of dread prisons in hot pursuit of Ed Harris' whacked Army general. They must stop him before he manages to unload lethal gas on San Francisco.

**SOLD** Move over, Lee Majors — Mario Van Peebles is a bionic man for the '90s. Peebles plays a cyborg soldier fighting his makers' battles — and a few of his own — in Norberto Barba's Latin American action-fest.

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL** A young woman (Alison Elliott) emerges from prison with hopes of finding redemption in a small Maine town. She takes a job waiting tables and quickly finds that wherever you go, your reputation follows. Fortunately, her courage and decency are abundant enough to win her friendships with the feisty widow played by Ellen Burstyn and a meek homemaker (Sherry Goldstein).

**STEALING BEAUTY** Liv Ullmann plays a precocious, inexperienced young American who leaves her daddy's high school life for the cultural excitement of Tuscany. She quickly finds herself (and her virginity) the object of every Italian's lust. Also starring Jeremy Irons, Jean Marais and Stefania Sandrelli. Bernardo Bertolucci directs.

**THE STUPIDS** Tom Arnold torments audiences yet again in John Landis' new comedy about a family full of trouble-seeking dumb-dumbs. Jessica Lundy, of "Hope and Gloria," costars.

**TALES FROM THE CRYPT PRESENTS BORDELLO OF BLOOD** You've heard of Hell's Kitchen. Now get ready for Hell's brothel, where STDs aren't the only danger to your health. Angie Everhart plays the madam of a den of ill repute, where johns buy sexual pleasure with their lifeblood. "Bordello" was directed, produced and co-written by Gilbert Adler, who cowrote "Children of the Corn II," so it's sure to be good, right?

**A TIME TO KILL** Samuel L. Jackson heads an all-star cast in the movie rendition of John Grisham's first novel. Jackson plays a father who takes the law into his own hands to avenge the brutal assault of his young daughter. Also starring Hollywood's man-of-the-moment Matthew McConaughey, Sandra Bullock, Kevin Spacey, Donald Sutherland, Ashley Judd and Keller Sutherland.

**TIN CUP** Kevin Costner stars in his third sports movie, attempting to add glamour and drama to a film about golf — a sport which is about as exciting as watching dust settle. He plays Roy "Tin Cup" McAvoy, an amateur golfer who falls in love with his biggest rival's girlfriend, Dr. Molly Griewald (Rene Russo), and attempts to gain her heart by winning the U.S. Open. Don Johnson, who plays Tin Cup's antagonist, David Simms, looks so good in pastels that it was only a matter of time before he ended up in a golf movie.

**TRAINSPOTTING** You'd think a bunch of ugly, skinny heroin addicts in search of thrills in Edinburgh, Scotland, would depress the hell out of audiences, but the zeal of the film's budding actors and the fast-paced plot have earned "Trainspotting" high praise from England to L.A. Apparently drugs and slacking haven't yet lost their appeal. Based on the novel by Irvine Welsh.

**THE TRIGGER EFFECT** Husband and wife Elisabeth Shue and Kyle MacLachlan join forces with Dermot Mulroney to ward off disaster in the midst of a cataclysmic power surge that causes a complete communication breakdown in their hometown metropolis. David Kepp ("Jurassic Park") directs — expect chills and thrills.

**TWISTER** Your standard action-thriller with a twist: Mother Nature is the terrorist. Helen Hunt leads a group of university researchers on the trail of Oklahoma's biggest tornado in 50 years — all the while battling heads with a rival team of storm-chasers led by Cary Elwes. Directed by Jan De Bont ("Speed"). Also starring Bill Paxton and Jami Gertz.

**A VERY BRADY SEQUEL** All eight Brady imposters (and Alice) are back. The family gets into more trouble when his groovy mentality clashes with the messed-up mindset of the '90s. Get ready for Kitty Kanyall, a trip to Hawaii and a run-in with Carol's long-forfeited hubby. What ever happened to Oliver?

**PRIDE'S CORNER DRIVE-IN**, 651 BRIDGTON RD., WESTBROOK, 797-3154.

**THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU (PG-13)** • FRI-SUN+8

**MULTIPLICITY (PG-13)** • FRI-SUN+9:30

## movie times

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY-THURSDAY, SEPT 6-11, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

Nickelodeon, Temple and Middle streets, Portland, 772-9751.

Movies & Times not available by the time CBW went to press.

General Cinemas, Maine Mall, Maine Mall Road, So. Portland, 774-1022.

**BULLETPROOF (R)**  
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

**BOGUS (PG)**  
1:40, 4:15, 7, 9:30

**FIRST KID (PG)**  
12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50

**TRIGGER EFFECT (R)**  
1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

**A VERY BRADY SEQUEL (PG-13)**  
1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25, 9:35

**TIN CUP (R)**  
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

**EMMA (PG)**  
1:40, 4:10, 7, 9:30

Hoyts Clark's Pond, 333 Clark's Rd., So. Portland, 879-1511.

**THE CROW: CITY OF ANGELS (R)**  
1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:50

**THE STUPIDS (PG)**  
12:45

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL (PG-13)**  
1:10, 3:50, 7, 9:40

**THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU (PG-13)**  
12:50, 3:20, 6:50, 9:15

**JACK (PG-13)**  
2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

**TRAINSPOTTING (R)**  
7:35, 9:40

**A TIME TO KILL (R)**  
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:35

**INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG-13)**  
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:45

**ALASKA (PG)**  
1:20, 4

**THE FAN (R)**  
2:50, 6:35, 9:20

The Movies, 10 Exchange St. Portland, 772-9600.

**STEALING BEAUTY (R)**  
SEPT 5-17 • THURS-TUES 5, 7:15, 9:30 • SAT-SUN 12:45, 2:45

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS, 206 U.S. ROUTE 1, FALMOUTH, 781-5616.

**THE CROW: CITY OF ANGELS (R)**  
7:15, 9:15

**THE STUPIDS (PG)**  
1

**EMMA (PG)**  
1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10

**A VERY BRADY SEQUEL (PG-13)**  
1:20, 3:15, 5:15

**TRAINSPOTTING (R)**  
3, 5, 7:25, 9:25

**JACK (PG-13)**  
SAT 1:25, 4:25, 9:25 • SUN-THURS 1:25, 4:25, 7, 9:25

**ALASKA (PG)**  
1:10

**TIN CUP (R)**  
1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:35

**A TIME TO KILL (R)**  
1, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

**INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG-13)**  
4, 6:50, 9:40

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL (PG-13)**  
1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:30

**BOGUS (PG)**  
1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40

**BULLETPROOF (R)**  
1:05, 2:55, 4:50, 7:10, 9:05

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**THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU (PG-13)** • FRI-SUN+8

**MULTIPLICITY (PG-13)** • FRI-SUN+9:30

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## categories

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SALES ASSOCIATE NEEDED for in town retail store. Flexible part-time hours. Sewing experience desired. Please call 773-0180.

Don't forget to check out the personals!

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**AVAILABLE NOW ROOM-MATE** 3brd apt. off street parking \$270/mo plus utilities and security deposit 761-4695.

**HIGGINS BEACH.** N/S, no pets, must like cats. Ocean views. 101/96-61/97, \$350/mo. +1/2 utilities. 883-0987.

**HOUSEMATE.** S. PORTLAND. Off Rt. 77, near beaches, great biking. Seeking active, mature, N/S. M/F to share great cape/waterfront space. \$350/mo. incl. heat. Call Dave 799-7644.

**MALE ROOMMATE** to share 3BR house in Scarborough, ND. \$325/mo. includes most utilities. 885-0229.

**PORTLAND.** Gender-gifted human looking for 2 exceptional GF/GM roommates for fabulous 3BR apt. in great neighborhood. 775-6435.

**PROFESSIONAL female** to share farmhouse in Falmouth. Cozy and comfortable. \$300/mo. Homey family atmosphere. 797-5111.

**SEEKING PROFESSIONAL N/S/FEMALE** to share sunny, spacious apartment in South Portland. \$350/mo. includes heat, H/W, cable. Has deck, W/D, skylights & storage. 767-7016.

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**WEST END - seeking woman roommate.** N/S, N/D, gay-friendly. Terrific apartment! Call in residence. \$312/mo + 1/2 utilities. 773-9681.

## ROOMMATES

**WINDHAM-HOUSEMATE WANTED.** share space, great yard, garden OK, in-ground pool, easy commute to Portland, male owner seeks M/F. N/S preferred \$400/mo. 893-2426.

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**GORHAM - 2 miles** from USM. Kitchen, laundry privileges. Parking and other extras. \$75/wk. 539-6912.

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**HIRAM, CHARMING.** not-so-rustic, 1BRD, wood-paneled cottage one hour from Portland. \$300/mo. plus some dog-sitting and lawn mowing. Single person only, well-behaved dog OK. Pas de chat. (207)829-3689.

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**BMW 633csi.** 1983- Black, 142K excellent condition. Selling to buy new BMW. \$7200. David: 443-9700.

**BMW Convertible 1984** flawless, one of a kind collectors item, loaded Serious Inquiries Only. \$12,850.00 829-5292.

**BONNEVILLE 1994 - Leather,** all extras, extended warranty 6yrs/100K. Immaculate, sacrifices at \$16,800/B.O. 629-4537.

**BUICK ELECTRA.** 1968 - Very good condition. \$1,700. Call (207)532-8420.

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\* ON THE BACK INDICATE:  
1) WITH WHICH HAND YOU WRITE  
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If you are thinking about self-improvement, try any one of the various health practitioners found in Casco Bay Weekly's Wellness Directory. If keeping your business healthy is your intent, then advertise in the Weekly Wellness Directory. Call 775-1234.

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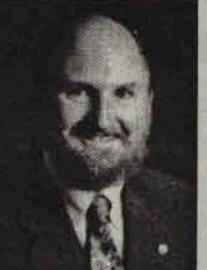
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No job too big or small.  
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QUALITY CLEANING IN  
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# Personals

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1-900-370-2041

(Calls cost \$1.99/min. Must be 18 or over. Touch-tone phones only. Casco Bay Weekly 207.775.1234)

## DATING SERVICES

THE GREATER MAINE SINGLES CONNECTION. An Intersingles/Activities Network. Eligible Introduction/Friendship/Dating Club. "Get Connected" 1-800-775-3090.

## WOMEN-MEN

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1990'S STYLE, 1960'S SOUL. Bangor area petite DWF, professional with autumn hair ISO compassionate soul mate (48-58) who enjoys music, reading, dancing, laughing, sharing, exploring new places and cozy times at home. #2748 (10/9)

A FRIEND INDEED-The ship has sailed on babies, probably, and the pressure is off SWF, 38, now seeking a man for dinner and a movie, maybe the theater, once in a while. Would love to make a friend. I'm kind, I hope, secure in my job and looking restlessly down the barrel of another Maine winter. If you are 40-50ish, kind, like to laugh, discuss books, jog, ride a bike and travel, you'd probably like me. Though I only pretend to like jogging... #2666 (10/2)

ATTRACTIONAL SWF, 38, 5'9", educated, artistic, graceful. Ventures to meet spirited SM who is compassionate, sensitive, good humored, ready to explore the inner dimensions of a relationship. Value equality, integrity, healthy well-being. #2562 (9/18)

ATTRACTIONAL, FIT, 24YO seeking handsome, fit, 22-28yo, interested in dancing, theater, dining out, exercising. Am smoker, don't mind one. No children please. #2669 (10/2)

DOES YOUR SOUL SING? Spiritual DWF, 52, N/S, AUBURNVILLE with brilliant smile, caring heart who loves classical music, composing. Seeks witty, intelligent DWM. Age unimportant, sensitivity is. #2693 (10/2)

## WOMEN-MEN

A MICROBEAD AND CHATTING- Educated SF, 30, vegetarian, who enjoys the outdoors, adventures, WOY!, homebrewing, liberal, healthy, positive outlook on life, is interested in meeting man who shares similar qualities. #2648

ACTIVE, RELOCATED BOSTONIAN, SWF, 49, 5'9", grey w/whining blues, outgoing, fun-loving, and sailor wants to chart course with SWM, who's captain of his own ship and jibes w/SM. Landlubber pastimes: tennis, bridge, arts, animals. If ready to sail, call or write to chart new course. #2632 (9/25) Personal Advertiser #814, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104

ADVENTUROUS SAGITTARIAN- 40yo SWFF enjoys cuddling, holding hands, most indoor/outdoor activities. Always ready for adventure and new experiences. ISO honest, trustworthy man with similar interests. #2623 (9/25)

ALMOST PERFECT! My life has quite nicely fallen into place except for you and I'm ready for commitment and family. I'm 37, SWF, attractive, fit, athletic, well-traveled, well-educated, professional N/S, D/W, Catholic... seeking same. #2672 (10/9)

ARTIST, EDUCATED, NATURALIST, somewhat striking, long-haired, slender, 5'6", 35yo DWF. Seeks handsome, athletic man valuing simplicity, activism, social/environmental consciousness, rides bike—less car. Strong, yet gentle, mover and shaker. Interests: hiking, camping, intentional community living, gardening, moral MD/Blue hill area. #2624 (9/25)

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CLASSY, ABOVE AVERAGE, very attractive SF, 31, 115lbs, young 50 DWF ISO DWM, 50-55. Interests include tennis, golf, boating, theater, dining, gardening, sports, and the arts. #2622 (9/25)

COMPANION WANTED BY vivacious, spontaneous, educated, professional DWF, 36, N/S, secure with self, seeking S/DWM, 35-45. Must have good SOH, confidence, honesty. Enjoy camping, theater, music, romance quiet nights at home. Children welcomed. #2644 (9/25)

COUNTRY-CITY GIRL 47, 57", 116lbs, nice-looking professional artist ISO caring, educated, tall, healthy, financially secure man, 48-56, who enjoys nature, arts, alternative health, Eastern thought, vegetarian cuisine, exploring new places, long walks, learning, growing, films, and some "finer" things and wants a happy, passionate woman to appreciate him. #2671 (10/2)

ALMOST PERFECT! My life has quite nicely fallen into place except for you and I'm ready for commitment and family. I'm 37, SWF, attractive, fit, athletic, well-traveled, well-educated, professional N/S, D/W, Catholic... seeking same. #2672 (10/9)

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DEAR JULIE, How I have longed to hold your sexy body next to my slightly muscular, tall frame. I have this aching passion that never seems to end until I am safely by your side... walking on ferry beach... sharing a glass of wine. 32YO professional artist child seeks independent, 25 to 35ish, mentally stable, for fulfilling passions that only Romeo and Juliet could share. Personal Advertiser #820, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104

FINE DISTINCTIONS- Humanities/social work professional DWF, 50. Far more both/and than either/or. Aims to balance macro/micro. Intellectually nimble, philosophically serious, enjoys cable reruns. #2673 (9/18)

GENTLE REALIST-DWF, 46, 5'7", slim, intelligent, well-spoken, independent, seeks available male, 40's early 50's, for friendship, perhaps more. Kids, music, outdoors, ideas, travel. N/S. #2619 (9/25)

**HARMON'S & BARTON'S**  
1-800-SUN-LILY 774-5946

IF LOVE WERE OIL, I'D BE about a quart low. DWM, poet without the verse. Romanticist at heart with SOH. Seeks soulmate-let's explore the fascinating maze of life together and try to learn from each other. #2731 (10/9)

(Women of the Personal of the Week receive a gift certificate courtesy of Harmon's & Barton Florist. All Casco Bay Weekly personals are entered. Send your personal ad to: Casco Bay Weekly Personals, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104)

CYNICAL NEUROTIC, articulate, book-loving, youthful 40ish professional born only one seeking love of sailing, art, laughter, slow pace, and English comedies. Compatible SOH a must. Personal Advertiser #817, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104

GOLF ANYONE? SWF, 46, 5'6", Laura Davis style golfer, enjoys many different sports, dancing, cards, music, movies, full moons, road trips, dogs and lots of laughter. Always ready for fun and adventure. You can't be shy, must be able to communicate, be affectionate and good natured. #2692 (10/2)

PRETTY WOMAN SEES OUTDOOR MAN (fit, kind, affectionate, 40-50) for canoeing, cycling, skiing, fun. DWF, 51, slim, N/S, professional, fond of reading, music, walking, gardening, cooking, traveling, sharing laughter... #2671 (10/2)

HIGH HEEL SNEAKERS & ALL- Blue jeans still fit after 27 years. Need long-haired, college-educated partner to complete outfit. You: S/DWM, sophisticated, N/S, 5'0, age 35-50. Me: DWF, Woodstock era, long, tall, smart. Portland area only. #2757 (10/9)

I AM SPAM, SPAM I AM- 18yo freakazoid art chik looking for a guy with long hair. Red necks and frat boys need not apply. Australians welcome. #2744 (10/9)

I AM THE POSSIBILITY of committed life long loving and fully self-expressed companionship. That is who I am. #2741 (10/9)

INDEPENDENT, HARDWORKING farmer, woodlot owner. Petite SWF, 40, tired of trivialities. Seek confident, gentle man, also involved in farming/forestry, to complete me. Spirited dancer a plus. #2626 (9/25)

LOOKING FOR THE ONE- 18yo college student/single mom ISO down-to-earth and free thinking SWM, 18-25, into coffee, conversation, kids, movies, and hanging out. Great SOH a plus. #2745 (10/9)

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE to share the dilemma of being human and celebrate inadequacies. #2690 (10/2)

LOVEABLE, LEGGY second sister seeks flexible fellow (40's-50's, N/S, spiritual, sincere) for share laughter in the rain, struggles all evenside, and smiles as daybreaks. #2728 (10/2)

MOTHER OF 8YO SHELTYE- Pretty, blond, slim writer, early 40's, ISO kind-hearted, creative and/or intellectual man for friendship, maybe more. #2658 (9/25)

NORDIC URBAN PROPHETESS- SWF, 35, just emerged from Botticelli's "Birth of Venus." Barefoot onto sunrise till inlet touching Casco Bay, ocean eyes shining, she sees visions of you a loyal, powerful, prosperous, kind, intelligent, lustful, evolved, ancient eyed avatar. We've met in dreamtime, now at Uta! #2670 (10/2)

PRETTY WOMAN SEES OUTDOOR MAN (fit, kind, affectionate, 40-50) for canoeing, cycling, skiing, fun. DWF, 51, slim, N/S, professional, fond of reading, music, walking, gardening, cooking, traveling, sharing laughter... #2671 (10/2)

REALLY OUTGOING SWM looking for SWF, 18-34, for walks on the beach. Looks not important, if you're who I'm looking for. Call me. #2742 (10/9)

SENSATIONAL CARING DWM, 51, 5'8", 200lbs. N/S, loves all aspects of doing things outdoors-riding of doing them alone. Seeking best friend, perhaps more. #2665 (10/2)

SEPERATED DAD WITH three in college. Let's share fitness, philosophy, music, respect. Intelligent, healthy, different, takes considerable 40's. Still learning. Teach me. #2734 (10/9)

SOME SEACOSTIAN- Compassionate and faithful SWM, 60, 5'10", 175lbs, enjoys dancing, fishing, camping, walking, beaches, mountains, sensible, weekend getaways. ISO lady, 50-65, warm, romantic. Will reply to all. #2740 (10/9)

SWIMMING, 6'7", 200lbs, seeks attractive, physically fit SWF, 28-38, for having fun, running, hiking, and dining out. #2673 (10/9)

I LIKE MYSELF AND I VALUE and appreciate what life has to offer. I miss sharing life's ups and downs with a special friend, a partner, someone to listen to, to grow with, to laugh with, to cry with. I'm interested in a relationship where both people can be themselves, not having to be perfect, feeling loved, accepted as we are, while enjoying life and the finer things in it. I am a very successful quality person who believes in open communication and treating a woman with respect, honesty and acceptance. I would appreciate receiving your confidential letter if you are a lady 40 or older who feels she can be a friend in a mature relationship. P.O. Box 377, Manchester, ME 04351.

ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE, SUCCESSFUL, centered, 30's Portland based professional looking for an attractive, compatible counterpart who's ready for true unconditional love, honesty, sharing, family, and the beginning of the best part of our lives. Let's quit all of this dating, and explore something important together. #2758 (10/9)

ANIMATED, ARTICULATE, active, acuminative, accepting, conversationalist, being alter ego is fun, 50, MBA, healthy, physically fit, enjoy walks, nature, antiques, volunteerism, the arts, museums, theater, concerts, day trips, travel, etc. S/DW for companionship, with the ultimate goal of achieving emotional intimacy. #2676 (10/9)

AQUA MAN, 45, SEEMS MERMAID, 30+, intelligent and fit, who is an avid underwater swimmer for free diving and friendship. #2664 (10/2)

BACKROADS, BEER, and STRING guitars. Mild, mildly eccentric, tall M seeks practical, creative, fun, under 50 for burgeoning relationship. #2721 (10/9)

BALANCED RADICAL- SWM, 37, active, happy, healthy, handsome, seeks to meet special female who is open minded, eager, curious, a woman with a broad consciousness intellectually and spiritually, with a foundation yet not contented within it. Prefer light-heartedness from non-perfectionist, poetic, alternative vegetarian with chem-free preferences. #2675 (10/2)

BROADLY CULTIVATED, casual non-materialist, devoted friend, gentle soul, passionate heart, playful wit, smooth-witted, polished, educated, self-critical critic, 30's, allergic to every "ism," seeks friend who knows her own free mind, comrade at arms in defense of truth, beauty and goodness in every sphere. #2671 (10/2)

COULD MAKE A WOMAN HAPPY- Affectionate, romantic DWM, 46, 140lbs, N/S, social drinker. Seeks lady, 35-50, with same qualities for LTR. Enjoy the ocean, walks, and the movies. #2721 (10/9)

DISABLED SWF, 43, outgoing, good-looking, fun-loving adventurous, SOH caring, open, honest, independent professional, seeks friendly, sweet, understanding woman for fun, times, good conversations, and sharing life's pleasures. Enjoy music, dining, movies, laughing, cooking, dining, picnic, beaches, road trips, karaoke. Let's meet! #2755 (10/9)

DOES YOUR SOUL SING? Spiritual DWF, 52, N/S, AUBURNVILLE with brilliant smile, caring heart who loves classical music, composing. Seeks witty, intelligent DWM. Age unimportant, sensitivity is. #2693 (10/2)

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## MEN-MEN

1ST TIME AD- Who says an honest, independent, attractive SWMM, 38, 5'10", 155lbs, BR/42 with traditional values and an allergy to cats can't be found? Seeking emotionally and financially secure, attractive SF, 30's, with slim build, N/S, interest in movies, music, travel, dining, dancing, walking, adventure, exploring and LTR. #2678 (10/2)

ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE, SUCCESSFUL, centered, 30's Portland based professional looking for an attractive, compatible counterpart who's ready for true unconditional love, honesty, sharing, family, and the beginning of the best part of our lives. Let's quit all of this dating, and explore something important together. #2758 (10/9)

ANIMATED, ARTICULATE, active, acuminative, accepting, conversationalist, being alter ego is fun, 50, MBA, healthy, physically fit, enjoy walks, nature, antiques, volunteerism, the arts, museums, theater, concerts, day trips, travel, etc. S/DW for companionship, with the ultimate goal of achieving emotional intimacy. #2676 (10/9)

AQUA MAN, 45, SEEMS MERMAID, 30+, intelligent and fit, who is an avid underwater swimmer for free diving and friendship. #2664 (10/2)

BACKROADS, BEER, and STRING guitars. Mild, mildly eccentric, tall M seeks practical, creative, fun, under 50 for burgeoning relationship. #2721 (10/9)

BALANCED RADICAL- SWM, 37, active, happy, healthy, handsome, seeks to meet special female who is open minded, eager, curious, a woman with a broad consciousness intellectually and spiritually, with a foundation yet not contented within it. Prefer light-heartedness from non-perfectionist, poetic, alternative vegetarian with chem-free preferences. #2675 (10/2)

BROADLY CULTIVATED, casual non-materialist, devoted friend, gentle soul, passionate heart, playful wit, smooth-witted, polished, educated, self-critical critic, 30's, allergic to every "ism," seeks friend who knows her own free mind, comrade at arms in defense of truth, beauty and goodness in every sphere. #2671 (10/2)

COULD MAKE A WOMAN HAPPY- Affectionate, romantic DWM, 46, 140lbs, N/S, social drinker. Seeks lady, 35-50, with same qualities for LTR. Enjoy the ocean, walks, and the movies. #2721 (10/9)

DISABLED SWF, 43, outgoing, good-looking, fun-loving adventurous, SOH caring, open, honest, independent professional, seeks friendly, sweet, understanding woman for fun, times, good conversations, and sharing life's pleasures. Enjoy music, dining, movies, laughing, cooking, dining, picnic, beaches, road trips, karaoke. Let's meet! #2755 (10/9)

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